

GRACE BIBLE TRAINING CENTRE (GBTC)
SCHOOL OF MINISTRY
ARUSHA - TANZANIA

SUBJECT: BASIC CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

LESSON 6: STRANGE & FALSE DOCTRINES

COURSE TEACHER: BISHOP EKONG

Introduction:

Read 2Timothy 3:1-9; 1Corinthians 4:1-6; 2Timothy 4:1-4; 2Peter 2:1-3; 3:14-18; Matthew 7:15-20; Acts 20:25-31; 1John 4:1-3

We live in times when the Scripture is being fulfilled about false teachings and false prophecies. We have been warned ahead of time by the Lord Himself and also the apostles about the emergence of pedlars of falsehood and deception (Matthew 24:4-5). They creep in deceptively wearing a camouflage of a sheep, and yet are wolves and thieves (2Timothy 3:6; Matthew 7:15; John 10:10).

Many have been misled by these sweet-talking false prophets and teachers who distort the word of God and also infiltrate the church with their teachings. False teaching is like poison hidden in sweet things and given to unsuspecting people to drink or eat. It is like coating lies with truth. Half-truth is a lie and a deception.

Why do believers fall for these things and why are they so gullible?

1. They do not read or understand their Bibles (Joshua 1:8; Psalms 1:1-3; 119:97-98). Some read the Bible in verses rather than in context. If you don't know the word, you become easily deceived, indoctrinated and therefore follow blindly in ignorance (Hosea 4:6; Ephesians 4:14; Psalms 119:130).
2. There are too many interpretations and arguments given about what the Bible says, thereby confusing the ignorant and immature (2Peter 1:19-21)
3. Believers place too much trust on people delivering these messages without cross-checking for themselves what the Bible says (Acts 17:10-11). We need to test the spirits to know whether they are of God (1John 4:1).
4. Inadequate and unbalanced teaching of God's word leading to spiritual immaturity and unfruitfulness (Hebrews 5:12-14; 2Peter 1:8-9; Ephesians 4:11-14; 1Peter 2:1-2).

Wrong / False teachings:

Some wrong teachings are not given with the intention to deceive but they come through ignorance and immaturity. The teachings are provided with incorrect interpretations to Scripture, which can be misleading. The teachers who teach these things and are sincerely wrong can learn from their mistakes and immaturity as they grow in faith and knowledge of the Lord, and correct themselves.

Several other wrong teachings come with the deliberate intention to deceive and to mislead, either for personal gain or as led by the devil. These types of teachings are very dangerous and could have eternal consequences.

There are several false or wrong teachings spreading round the world and in the churches today. Some have their origins from sects and other organisations such as Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, New Age Movement, Seventh Day Adventist, etc while some come from mainstream churches like the Roman Catholic Church, etc. A large number come from individuals or groups with the intention to cause damage or division in the church.

We will select a few doctrines that are currently identified.

1. Once saved, forever saved – Can a believer lose his / her salvation? (John 17:11-12; Romans 8:38-39; Hebrews 6:1-8; 10:24-31; Galatians 3:1-6, 10-14; 1John 1:6-10; 2:1-2; Ephesians 2:8-10; 2Peter 3:9; John 3:16-19; 1John 5:16-17; 1Corinthians 3:15)
2. Forbidding speaking in tongues and prophecy (1Corinthians 14:39; Mark 16:17; Acts 2:1-4; 10: 44-48; 19:1-7)
3. Water baptism - how many times in water? – You don't bury a dead body more than once! (Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 6:4-11; Hebrews 9:27-28)
4. Is Sabbath for believers? Should they observe it? (Colossians 2:13-17; Exodus 20:8-11; 31:13-16; Matthew 12:1-8; Mark 2:27-28; John 7:21-23; Matthew 28:1-7; Acts 20:7; 1Corinthians 16:2; Revelations 1:9-10)
5. Are women allowed to minister or to lead in church? (Genesis 1:27-28; 3:14-19; Galatians 3:28; 1Corinthians 14:34; 1Timothy 2:11-12; Acts 18:2, 18, 24-26; Romans 16:3-5; 1Corinthians 16:19; Philippians 4:2-3; Acts 21:8-9; Luke 2:36-38; Revelations 1:4-6; 1Peter 2:4-5, 9)
6. Is it wrong for believers to use the name Jesus instead of the Hebrew name, Yeshua? (John 14:12-14; Philippians 2:9-11; Matthew 1:21-23; Mark 16:17)
7. Many others