

### One of the most Overlooked Signs in the End Times Deception Pt. 3

#### **Bishop Steve Norman**

### **Bible Study – 6-19-2025**

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

Matthew 24:4-5 And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.

Deception is the preeminent sign of the end of this present age.

These deceivers will succeed in misleading many of God's people. In Matthew 24:5, "For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray."

It's important to note that this verse uses the word "**many**," which comes from the Greek word "*polús*." This term signifies a large number or quantity, implying a multitude.

Peter and the disciples understood that when Christ mentioned false figures, it included not only those claiming to be Him but also those who represented Him on earth in the five-fold ministry.

Jesus elaborated on this warning of deception two more times (Matthew 24:5, 11, 23-28). Many will claim to be Christ, but there will also be many false prophets and false teachers.

Jesus clarifies who He is referencing as He continues His prophecy.

Matthew 24:23-25: "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand."

When Jesus uses the word "many" (Matthew 24:5), many scholars suggest that there will be more false Christs and false prophets than there will be true anointed men and women of God teaching the truth.

Matthew 7:13-14 "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are *many* who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. 15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

In this passage, Jesus speaks about false prophets—those who claim to be God's shepherds, meant to lead others, but have ulterior motives. The ones who will be led astray are the ones who have not allowed Jesus to be Lord over their lives.

John 10:25-30 Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me. 26 But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I



said to you. 27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. 30 I and My Father are one."

We need to be cautious not to let ourselves be swayed by the organization's methods, which could lead us to compromise the message of truth.

Modern methods can be beneficial as long as they do not replace or undermine the truth.

# 2 Timothy 4:3,4"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables".

The word "time" in verse 3 was translated from the Greek word *kairos*, which depicts *a specific season*. Paul said, "This specific season shall come." The tense is futuristic, pointing to *a season in the future*, or to events that will occur in the very last part of the last days.

In this end-times season, the Holy Spirit said increasing numbers of people in the Christian community "…will not endure sound doctrine" (v. 3).

## Romans 1:25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

The words "sound doctrine" in **2 Timothy 4:3** are very telling. The Greek word for "sound" indicates something that is <u>wholesome and healthy</u> and that produces a <u>healthy state of being</u>.

## Romans 1:22-23 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man — and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

The word "doctrine" refers to the teachings of Christ.

John 6:63-64 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life. 64 But there are some of you who do not believe."

