

# A Sinners Deception

By Glen bond

The salvation that I want to proclaim to you this morning, is that the blood of Christ will wash away every stain. I want you to consider salvation. I want you to consider your state before God. Consider the things that the Bible tells us. And that's what I want to look at; some of the things that the Bible tells us.

My message this morning is titled, "A Sinner's Deception". And I want to look at the deception of every lost sinner, I'm not talking about, just some of the more wicked people; "well, they're really deceived", no. Every lost sinner outside of Christ is deceived. You're deceived. You don't have an accurate understanding of your spiritual condition. If the Lord hasn't broken that deception, you don't know. You think you know, you come here, you hear the preaching, Sunday after Sunday, year after year. You hear basically the same message preached. You think you've got some kind of understanding of it, but you don't. You just don't know. And whenever we read what the Bible tells us, about the awfulness of man, the wickedness of man, the depravity that's in every one of us, the first thing you want to say is, "Oh, I ain't that bad a person. I ain't like that. I don't do those things". Because you're deceived. When the Lord breaks that deception, you won't say that anymore. You won't say it. Whenever you say, "well, I'm not that bad a person", or "I don't do those kind of things", and you try and separate yourself from it. All of those attitudes and opinions or thoughts, they all show some degree of righteousness. You think, I'm not that bad. I'm not that wicked. Whenever you say that, you're implying in some manner that you have some righteousness, maybe not a lot, but some. Or maybe you think you have a lot.

But look what God's word says about your righteousness. Isaiah 64:6. We all know it. **We are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness's are as filthy rags;** So whenever you say, "I'm not like that, I don't do those kind of things", you better think again. God won't have any of your righteousness because it stands out as filthy rags in his sight. It stinks in his nostrils. And then the fact that you say, "Well, I ain't like that. I don't do that. And I'm not that kind of person". These just show clear evidence that Satan has you deceived. Now you think about it. It shows that the mind is blinded just like God's word says. It shows that the things

of God are spiritually discerned and without God's breaking that spiritual deception in you, you're spiritually blind and you can't see them or know them. It doesn't make sense to you. And this morning, I want to just hammer on the subject of Satan's deception, again and again, because it's such a real thing. It's not imaginary.

I remember when the Lord broke that deception in my heart and how I began to see what I am. I used to think, in error, that I was good, righteous in my own sight. But when the Lord broke that deception, all that disappeared. It went by the wayside. It was gone. It had nothing, no foundation, nothing to stand on. So this deception of Satan, it's a real thing. It's not a relative thing or something that's, well, compared to this, you're like that, and compared to that, in different ways..., however you want to explain it. But deception is real. It's real, just as real as Satan is. And one of the reasons that I keep hammering on this, and that I want to hammer on it today, is because there's that saying that has been said lately, it says, "Hell is really hot, and eternity is really long", and you don't want to be deceived and misled, that you'll end up in that awful place. Hell is real.

Now let's look at what the Bible says again. What does the Bible say about man, every lost sinner? The Bible tells us that all have sinned, Romans 3:23. It tells us there's none good, Psalms 14:3, and several other places, and it tells you that Satan deceives the whole world in Revelation 12:9. And that's backed up by the blinded mind and those things spoken of in 2 Corinthians 4:4. These things show the deception of Satan, and it shows it to anyone that'll believe it. If you'll believe what God's word says, it shows you that Satan is a deceiver. It shows it to you, and his work is to keep you deceived until you pass out of this life and drop into hell. Now that's the work of Satan. That's his work, his life's work, and he doesn't have a short life like you and I do. He has a long life. He was around and tempted Adam and Eve there in the garden. And he has been learning more and more, I believe, about humanity every day and how to tempt you without so much as an effort on his part. He knows you. He knows how you think, how you work, all those things. He's been studying you for thousands of years, and he has the ability to deceive, and you need to consider it.

I've spoken against the so-called "Sinner's Prayer" as being one of Satan's most dastardly tricks to mankind. Satan uses his ability to deceive to make sinners

believe his lie, and he uses that sinner's prayer, he says, *"Oh, that's all the Bible says, believe. You just say this prayer and confess your sins and you believe that Jesus died for you and you're okay"*. But you need to read your Bible. You need to study it and see what God says about salvation. And that's what I try to do every time I stand here and speak. I try to throw some light on Satan's deception and show you what God says about salvation. And one indication that every saved sinner will experience, is to be awakened. To be Awakened! And people say, well, what does it mean to be awakened? And how does that affect me? And what does it mean? And I never heard that before. But I'm going to tell you, if you're never awakened, you'll never be saved.

Now I want to also point out, to be awakened is quite simply having Satan's deception broken so that you can see and understand what you are. Now every who person comes into this world, comes in deceived. Satan begins, as soon as you're able to understand, to deceive you and to keep you deceived. Now, I want to tell you, I searched through the Bible. (You can use a computer and do that in just a couple seconds), but the word awakened is not in the Bible. That word 'awakened' is not in God's word. Now, there are similarities that you'll find, but the word awakened, and that's what I'm speaking on, being awakened, the word 'awakened' is not there. But let me tell you what is there in God's word, in John 16:8. And this is something we know and we've heard, but do you realize what it means? John 16:8 says, **when he is come**, and he's talking about the Holy Spirit, and he's called the Comforter, it says, **when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment**. Now you may say, well, what has that got to do with being awakened? That's the work; that's what the Holy Spirit does. He's speaking of the Holy Spirit's work here, and he says the Holy Spirit will reprove; He will reprove. What does that word reprove mean? It means to be convinced. It means to be convinced of sin and righteousness and judgment.

Have you ever been convinced that you're a sinner? And why do you need to be convinced anyway? Don't you already know what you are? What you've done in your life? All those things; don't you already know? And that's what we're talking about here. Because the mind is blinded and deceived by Satan, you don't realize it, it doesn't make sense to you because it's spiritually discerned, and you don't have spiritual discernment. The mind is blinded by Satan so you have to be 'convinced'. Your mind has to be enlightened, a light has to be shined in. The

deception has to be broken. When all that begins to come about, these things, (and the Bible says that the things of God are foolishness to you), they'll no longer be foolishness. They'll become a reality to you. All the things that God says about you in his word, those things like, "all have sinned" and "there's none that doeth good", "the darkened understanding". All those things will become real to you. You will understand them and they'll make sense, and you'll say, *how could I be such a wicked sinner as I am? How can I be this way? I thought I was good, but I'm not.*

That spiritual discernment, that breaking of deception, that enlightenment of the mind, all of that must come from God, the Lord has to do it. That spiritual discernment, those things, no man can give that. No man can do it. No man can break that deception of Satan. When God gives spiritual discernment to a lost sinner, all of Satan's deception has to go. And when his deception goes, then the mind becomes enlightened. You begin to see; you begin to know and understand what you are before God. And whenever the Lord breaks that deception, when he shows you what you are, you will walk, seemingly, from darkness to light. In the darkness, you can look at yourself and you can't see anything because it's dark. But when you step into the light and you look at yourself, you'll see yourself pretty much as a complete leper, corrupt all over, nothing good. You couldn't see it in the dark, but in the light of God, that spiritual light that the Lord gives you breaks that deception, lets you see and understand what you are, you'll see it. And it won't be anything like what you thought you are.

Every person is deceived until the Lord God breaks that deception, till he breaks Satan's hold. And if he never breaks it, if he never does that one thing for you. If you're never awakened, you'll never be saved and you will die and go to an eternal hell. Now that's a fact! You can't get away from it.

Why is it so important that the deception of Satan be broken in you? Why? Can't you still believe on Jesus and be saved? Can't you? What does salvation in Christ have to do with Satan and his deception? Can't I still be saved? Can't I? No, you can't. I want you to remember, I'm speaking about salvation. Everything else can take a second place. We're talking about salvation. And when we look at salvation, we find that God has a righteous law and he holds us to it. That righteous law must be obeyed. And we find that we've all broken God's righteous

law, every one of us. We're all sinners. That's what makes us a sinner, the breaking of God's law. And because of our depraved nature, we can't keep the law. We can't stop our sinning and say, "Okay, from now on, I'm not going to sin anymore". You can't do it. And just to be clear, even if you could do it, what about those times past that you sinned and you broke the law, and those times when you did sin against God? What about those times? That law has to be satisfied. That sin has to be paid for.

Because of our nature, we can't keep the law. And in the sight of God, we only become more and more wicked every day. And then God's law pronounces death upon every sinner. Death! **The soul that sinneth, it shall die.** And this death is not just the death of the body, but it's an eternal death in hell, in the lake of fire; a never-ending torment. When I come here and speak of salvation, I speak of an eternal salvation, an eternal redemption, being delivered from an eternal hell, and a place of eternal torment. And that's why I come. That's why I'm here. To tell you, to warn you, there's an awful hell waiting for you, and Christ died to deliver you from it. And you need to come to Christ, you need to seek his face, you need to call on him, plead with him, beg him to save you.

But when we see this awful penalty of death for our sin, it's a natural thing to think, "*Wow, man, I don't want to suffer that penalty.*" I don't want to suffer that. I don't want to have to go to hell forever. And it's a natural thing to think like that. We all do. And God has provided a way of escape. So, if you want to escape, you must come to Christ.

So now we come to the big problem. The big problem that we have in the world. I've tried to describe the sinful condition of every person, **the soul that sinneth, it shall die**, and we have all **sinned and come short of the glory of God**. So we have a very simple description that condemns you to hell, then we have the natural heart, and it's deceived by Satan, and we have that darkened mind, that keeps us from seeing what we are. But the problem is, you don't believe it. You don't believe it. You say, "*I'm not that bad a person*". And when you say that, you say, I have some righteousness. And when you say that, you say, I don't deserve hell. And when you say that, you might as well stand up in God's face, point your finger at him, and say, "*I'm not that bad, I don't deserve hell; You leave me alone!*" Whenever it comes to that point, you're telling God, "*You're not God. You don't*

*have authority over me, get out of here*". And you have, in effect, kicked God off his throne and said, I'll take his place. I'll do what I want. I'll rule my own life. I'm not a sinner.

Now you think, *"Oh, no, I wouldn't go that far"*. But you already did. You already did. A long time ago. You don't believe God's word. You don't believe it. You want to say, *"Well, Jesus died to save sinners, and I'm a sinner, therefore, I'm saved"*. And you want to leave it at that. But Christ, though he did die, he didn't die to save the righteous, and you just proclaimed yourself as righteous. You see, you're holding up your own thoughts and ideas and saying, *"well, I have this righteousness, and this is mine, and I have this, so I don't deserve hell"*. No matter what your righteousness is, no matter what you think of yourself, that deceived mind kicks in. That blinded mind, that darkened understanding, that deceitful heart, it all kicks in and leads you directly away from God; Or you might say, directly into God's face in rebellion. It all works together. All the righteous people, those who think *"I'm not that bad, I'm not that kind of person, I live a good life"*. You think about the so-called good people in the world. Oh, he'll give you the shirt off his back. He'll do anything to help you. He's a good guy. He goes to work. He provides for his family. He's not a dopehead. He doesn't do those things. He ain't a drunkard. He'll help you in any way he can. He's just the best citizen around here. And there's many people like that. Many, many good people in the world. There's no end to those kinds of people. But I'm going to tell you, all of those kinds of people are going to be in hell unless they're saved, unless the Lord breaks that deception. Why? Why are so many good people in hell? Because they're holding up their own righteousness to God. And God's saying, that's a filthy, nasty thing. I don't want it. I won't have it. Your righteousness is worthless to God. It is worthless. All the 'righteous' are destined to hell, not because they're righteous, but because they're deceived into 'thinking' that they're righteous. They're deceived by Satan. If you're not saved, you're deceived, and in your deceived state, you cannot see a need for salvation. You can't see it. I try to tell you, I try to point it out, I explain it, I explain God's Word, tell you what it means to be deceived, but you can't tell, you can't understand, it doesn't mean anything to you, no matter how many times I explain it to you. But what I'm doing here this morning is trying to tell you, you need to come to Christ because you're deceived. Now you can go ahead and you can say, well, I don't see where I'm so deceived

and I'm not that bad a person. And if you stop there, you'll go to hell. But if you continue on and say, well, I think I'm going to seek the Lord anyway, just in case, maybe, maybe I'll seek the Lord; Because the Bible tells you, seek the Lord. If you stop and you hold on your self-righteousness, you'll go to hell. I try to tell you, but you can't see it. You can't believe it. You can't understand it.

I tell you, seek the Lord. And you think it's a hard thing. It's too difficult. I can't do it. Maybe you say, *"Well, I like this big church over here and there's lots of people and they have lots of activities and things to do and not only that, but I can just say the sinner's prayer and believe and live a good life and I don't have to seek the Lord and I don't have to concern myself with that difficult way of salvation that you're laying out"*. Well, let me ask you, is your sinner's prayer going to get you to heaven? Is it? Is it a true salvation? Just saying that sinner's prayer won't save you. It won't save you.

Now, you can go to that big church, and you can believe what they tell you, but on Judgment Day, you'll wish you had listened to the truth. And it'll be too late then. Satan's deception keeps you from the knowledge of what you are, what you 'are', not what you could be or what you might be or what somebody else thinks you might be. He keeps you from knowing what you are. if you don't know what you are, If you don't know your corruption, your sinfulness, your wickedness; if you continue thinking, well, I'm not such a bad person, I don't do this, that, and the other, I'm not that bad a person, you'll continue on, blind, deceived, and you'll die and drop into hell, because of deception.

If you don't know what you 'are', you'll never see a need for salvation. If you're deceived, you can't see what you are. And I want to tell you, you can be certain that God will never give a pardon to those that don't need it. He won't. The Lord says, Christ came to 'save' sinners. Do you need 'saving'? In your deceived state, you don't need saving. You don't see a need for it. Christ came to 'save' sinners. And if you're deceived by Satan, you don't see a need of salvation. And when Christ comes to save you, you say, oh, well, I don't need it. Go on, that fellow over there, he's wicked and drunk and a dope head and all those things, and he needs saving.

The Lord will not save a blinded and deceived individual. He will not. Because you don't see a need for it. The Lord will not give a pardon to the man who will not

honor God's law by admitting he's guilty. If you're not guilty, you have nothing to be saved from. You don't need a pardon. If a man says, I have not broken the law. I'm innocent. Is God unmerciful if he won't forgive that person? Is he? The person says, I ain't got nothing to be forgiven. I didn't do anything. You ain't going to forgive me anything. If God would pardon that person, it would be a pardon to an unrepentant criminal. And he would continue then in his criminal activities thinking there is nothing to worry about, thinking it's all acceptable. Think about it. If you're caught in the act, and many people are caught in the act, criminal act, and still won't admit to it. You won't admit to it. Now you think about it. You, every lost sinner, you are caught in the act by God. God knows. He sees all. He sees when it happened. And if you won't admit to it, it's the same as saying it's not a crime. It's not a crime. It's okay to do. I don't need forgiveness for doing something that's okay.

Why would the Lord save such a person? A person that continually fights with him and argues and says, no, it's okay, it's okay. Is the Lord going to forgive you for it? Man might say, "well, whatever. I'm tired of dealing with you, get out of here". But God's not. It'd be irrational for God to do. God will never save a person who opposes him. He won't. If you're ever saved, that deception will be broken, your darkened understanding will be enlightened, and you will have come to understand what a wicked, hopeless, hell-deserving sinner you are. You'll come to that point. You will agree with the Lord. You will agree with the Lord's description of what you are. You'll see and understand your state before God, and you will understand that verse that says, Hebrews 10:31, **it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God**. It'll become real to you, that **fearful thing**. It'll become real to you when the Lord awakens you and you'll see and know that you're at God's disposal and that God can do with you whatever he pleases. He can save you, or he can leave you to yourself. And when you come to that place, you'll begin to beg the Lord, because you will see what you are. You will know and understand the awfulness of it. And you'll understand that you have nothing that God wants. Nothing. You'll know that you deserve hell, and you will agree with God that he should send you to hell. You'll tremble. Your heart will break at the sight of what you are before a great, holy, and loving God who has provided for you, provided all your needs, all your life, and you continue to refuse to obey, refuse to acknowledge Him, continue to reject Christ. It'll all become plain to you



when the Lord awakens you and shines in that light and causes you to see what you are.

The Bible says, **to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit and trembleth at my word.** And that is the description of the heart of an awakened sinner. **Poor and of a contrite heart, and trembleth at my word.** Do you tremble at the thought of what you are before God? Do you? The Bible says the devils believe and tremble. They tremble at the thought, but we don't. Not before the Lord awakens you.

Is it any wonder that God should pass by the proud and self-righteous? Is it? Pass them by? Leave them without a blessing? They're saying, no, I'm good. I'm not sinful. I don't do those things. I don't need salvation. By their own profession, they don't want his mercy. You think about it. They declare that they don't need to be forgiven. They don't need salvation. Don't need it. You're going to hell and you deserve it. You deserve it.

When the Lord awakens you, you'll see it. You'll know it. You'll agree with it. I'm going to hell, I know it, and I deserve it; and God is righteous and just to send me there.

Go on down to the hell which you have chosen by your pride and reap the fruits of your own willfulness. But don't speak bad of God, or the tenderness of God when he does it. God has held out salvation to you, and in your pride, you have rejected it. You said, I don't need it. And God has continued, continued again and again and held out salvation to you again and again and over and over and you've said NO! You're deceived. You can't see a need.

Do you want to be saved this morning? You want to be saved? You beg the Lord to break that deception. Ask him to show you a need. He'll show you. He'll make you to know. And when he does, you'll begin to plead with the Lord. You'll begin to beg. You'll beg like you never begged before, for your soul, that the Lord will save you. God is holy and he is just, and if you won't turn from your wickedness and flee to Christ, if you won't believe what the Lord tells you in his word, if you won't believe that you're deceived, if you won't come to Christ and beg for salvation, then you're gonna perish in hell. No buts. No exceptions. It'll happen. You can say, "*well, Satan had me deceived*". But that won't hold water on judgment day. You've been told, you've been warned, you've been given every

opportunity to come and seek the Lord and to call on him. And you won't come. You won't call on him. You go about your life in your deception, thinking all's good, thinking, *“Well, that preacher, he's just hard, and he's ornery, and he's just preaching a hard message”*. Well, I'm sorry that you think it's hard, but it's the way of salvation. It's the way of life. God has sent you his word over and over again by many faithful preachers and teachers. It's come again and again. You've heard the truth, but you won't come. And I'm going to tell you the primary reason you won't come, and it's because *“You don't want to”*! You don't want to. I've got better things to do. You're deceived. You're deceived. Lord, help us. Lord, break deception. Lord, help us.

Our Father, I thank you for this time. Lord, I thank you for thy word. Lord, I thank you, Oh, Lord, for breaking that deception in my heart one day, for causing me to see a need for salvation. Lord, I just plead with you now, Lord, Send thy Holy Spirit to break the deception here in the hearts of our people and awaken them and cause them, Lord, to see their need. Oh, Lord, have mercy on us. Bless us. Go with us through the day now and bring us back tonight and I ask it in Christ's name and for his sake. Amen.

(edited for clarity)