

The heart of the

wise

inclines to the right, but the heart of the

fool

to the left. Eccles. 10:2

Hello?

History will record with astonishment that those who had to most to lose did the least to stop it.

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Sharon Jackson, Servant of God
Pinellas Park, Fl. 33780
727-824-7740 Leave Msg

The weather man didn't MISS
his prediction. GOD spared the U.S the worst...! 12 nuclear plants laid in Florence's path; only 1 is HOT.
Life is fragile...

Satan: How Did He Get You ...?

Say what? Some people don't even believe in a devil...and that may include you! If so...read no further because he already has yoult's called deception!

You see, deceived people don't know that they are deceived... because they are deceived. Therefore, they think they are right.

Most people who do believe in Satan think he is down at the local tavern, but the devil doesn't waste a lot of time there because, he already has most of them! They serve well to influence others frequenting there, too.

Or, people think he is in human trafficking rings, behind the wheel in dui's, or pedophile chat rooms. That's true most likely.

But the Apostle Paul tells us where the devil works most *effectively*, and it's not where everybody thinks! The devil is a master of disguises and counterfeits. He isn't creative like God is; he can only imitate.

So where is he most active? In *church*...! He disguises himself into an angel of light, and his minions (demons) are his "ministers of *righteousness*." 1 Yes.

The devil doesn't care if you go to church! He'll go with you....he will even sit on the pew with you! (They are called false brethren.)

It is when you start to pray and read your Bible that he gets concerned. He may also have the pastor assure you that, if God speaks... it will thru him! That scriptures aren't up to date enough, so you need to refer to commentaries in order to understand the Bible. And don't be too narrow when you read the Bible...we must be tolerant of others' beliefs and religions. Do not offend....

" Oh! By the way, that part

about 'hell?' Nobody believes that anymore. So pay no attention to that part."

This is exactly what many churches preach today. in trendy, feel-good type of churches with the exception of some Bible preaching churches holding true to God's Word. This false message is often effective because it's subtle and appeals to our desire to feel good. You read about major denominations pushing for ordaining gays, or marching for abortion rights. You can't approve what God disapproves! But try they will.

These church leaders are false teachers and hirelings, and Peter tells us "on account of these, the gospel will be evil spoken of..."2 Why? Because they've taken God's Word and inserted their own!

Now the question arises, what's behind the confusion over church doctrines, even hell or trendy churches? In a word, *Deception*. Where does deception come from and why **must** we deal with it...?

I asked SIRI on my iPhone to define *deceit* and she said it was 'misrepresenting the truth.' So it all begins with the TRUTH! Wow...Excellent definition! But to understand deceit we must go back to the beginning...

That's because scripture tells us Satan is 'the deceiver of the whole world's and he was there in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve. Amazingly, his tactics haven't changed thru the years, because when the devil, disguised as a serpent, tempted Eve, the very first thing he did, was cast doubt on God's Word 4....He said, "Hath God said....?" Then he told a lie (Jesus said he's the father of lies!)5 "You shall not die." They did die spiritually.

Scripture says "Do not be

deceived" 6 and a couple of places, it even says "Let no one deceive himself." Why?

Probably because our own heart is 'deceitfully wicked and no man can know it." Thus, It's pretty important that we make it our business to avoid deception, by knowing the truth! Peter didn't know his own heart...trust God to!

It is an incredible honor to speak into the lives of people regularly. And I genuinely love those who live for God, obeying Him, living a life of worship. But, my burden is for those who regularly occupy pews but feel safe from hell though there's no difference in their lives....than their lost neighbors! There's no burden for souls - even loved ones! - But they show up weekly to church!

Jesus warned us not all who <u>say</u> the right things, "Lord, Lord" would enter heaven, but only those who <u>DO</u> the will of the Father.7 That *many* would take the wide path that leads to destruction, but *few* would choose the narrow path that leads to life... So I asked SIRI to define 'few' - she said "*not* many...'

Jesus believed in Satan for he talked to him like I'm talking to you! Therefore, hell must be more than a myth... It's geographical!

Fallen pulpits have left a vacuum of truth in our society. Absence of justice worldwide has ignited violence and invited crime. America is in trouble. The world is in trouble - we should praying... he Lawlessness is setting the stage for the Lawless One - the antichrist. Delay his arrival...by obeying God! Win the lost souls around you, before it's too late.

Truth is not what Culture Decides!



References 1) II Cor. 11:16 2. II Pet. 2:2-3 3. Rev. 12:9 4. Gen.3:1,4 5. John 8:44 6.I Cor. 15:33; Gal.6:7; I Joh1:8 7.Matt.7:21-25 8. Matt. 24:1-3 9.John 8:32,36 10.John 18:36 11.John 17:17 12.II Thes.2:12 13. Heb. 4:11 14. Rom. 5:8 15. Eph.5:26

The Chase is On....!

Truth is the essence of life. It's the immunization, the only one, against the deception and lies of this world. Jesus warned deception would prevail before His return.8 Beware-Watch out for it!

Truth is the first order of the day, daily. Jesus said He came to "bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth *listens to My voice*." 10 And to His Father, "Thy word is truth." 11

If you don't love the truth, you won't make it! Why? Because scripture says you will believe a lie...12 .And if you're sitting and waiting for the rapture – and you have pleasure in unrighteousness? – you won't make it either! 12

Every morning I pray for my family. One prayer is that they will love what is

good, right and true. That they will 'chase & embrace' God's truth, and thus reject every LIE that comes along!

Do you listen for His voice? Jesus promises, "My sheep hear my voice." He is always speaking... He is the Author of communication, so Be Still, and listen....

Prayer is not a monologue, it's a dialogue! Settle yourself before Him and expect Him to speak & guide. It may not be that very minute - yet it will come! Holy Scripture is living and active.13

No 'guidance' opposes scripture, ever! But He will guide you in many ways... in circumstances, open doors, closed doors, pastor's voice,} parents. Don't limit Him....Let peace be your guide! If there is no peace, wait. If you doubt, don't!

"If any man's will is to do

His will he shall **know**..." Don't ask for direction when you already know what you're going to do! This is an exercise in futility.

I became born again in April 1968. That's fifty years, and I can tell you God is Good. More, God is faithful to guide His people. He doesn't leave you stranded! But He knows your heart. No games!

Also, you need to know that He says sin in our lives can block His ability to hear us. It's in Isaiah 59:2. He can't even *look* at us if we have unconfessed sin! Jesus paid the price to take sin from us. *Use that privilege*, daily!

Always keep a short tab on sin in your life. You will have unbroken fellowship with a loving Father...The Great Hound of Heaven is chasing after you! "While we were yet sinners, Christ died...."14



"Washed by the water of the word..."15

I'm not who I used to be. I don't mean witness protection. I'm talking about living as a prisoner of my past, the nagging voice of a ghost that said I was unworthy. A loser. It was the voice of my *mother*. She was one of six abusers. I honored her as long as she lived, saying nothing. After I told the truth. She was an abuser who daily hurled a litany of rejection my way – rejection being the *brighter* side of my life! She never wanted me...I was an accident from the beginning. She wished she'd never had me. I never did anything *right*. I was a delinquent headed for jail... so I *went*

That, in spite of being an honor society member, on Student Council; in marching band... my mother couldn't see the truth. I soon evolved into a street urchin, carrying a gun at 12 years old...Mom was never home. On my 17th birthday, I ran away from the main *reason* I lived on streets -my stepfather- a felon - when he beat again. Drs told Mom he could kill us at any time. She didn't believe them....but neighbors and I certainly did! They said nothing tho...

I managed to marry 'up', and had a real family at last... and I became a leader. *Anyway*. Thanks largely to great friends and mentors! Mom and I were mostly alienated the 30 years before she died. We talked weekly by telephone. Yet 6 weeks before she died, that breach was healed. A miracle! Then came another. But...! Her insults haunted me well into marriage ...and the fear of failure. But I vowed if my 2 children failed it wouldn't be because they ever doubted I *loved* them!

What changed? How did I ever leave those shackling chains behind? It's simple. I was brainwashed! Yes. Today, I realize that my confidence bowls some people over. Where did it come from? To grow from a simple street urchin to someone wholly confident of who she is, unintimidated by others? Admittedly, **the download took years.** Perhaps 15. The library was my refuge from home and city streets. I sought the *truth* in every possible venue. The arts, science, religion...I read Socrates & Plato. If it was in 'print' - I believed it was *surely* true! (I said I was *simple!*) I was empty.

At age 24 and on my way to truth, I met the Author of it! At last I understood 'religion's inconsistencies! Immersed in scripture daily, God wrote <u>His truth</u> upon my heart. I wear it today! He 'washed me in the water of His word.' A street fighter, I found I could stop fighting a battle that was already won! Jesus said it was 'finished'. I had Rest. **The night before He** died, Jesus told His beloved disciples, "You have already been made clean by the words I have spoken to you." His Word cleansed me from fear, bitter memories, a broken heart and shame Fulfillment came where only failure had loomed.

<u>Your</u> life is not exempt from God's Grace! More, you need His *passion* for living! Moses, King David & Paul are the most spoken of in the Bible – but **all were** *murderers!* God has room for <u>you</u>...! But the real evidence of knowing God is a changed life. It's *too late* to tell me it doesn't <u>work!</u> Some years ago, a woman said I was narrow; that I needed to be more broadminded. Afterward, I recalled Jesus' words, '<u>Broad</u> is the way that leads to destruction. But <u>narrow</u> is the way that leads to life!' I'm pleased to be narrow – and on the path of life! Our hope is not in *this* world, Friends...

My *mother*? Days before she died, she sobbed over her evil deeds, repenting to God. On her deathbed she said Jesus held her hand...*Not to wait* like she'd waited! She wasn't *afraid*... Before that? *She had good reason to be*! Sharon Jax