

**THE WEEK OF  
October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009**



**Jesus Vs. The Deceiver  
Deceptive Beauty  
II Corinthians 11:1-3; 13-15**

"For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light."

II Corinthians 11:14

We've all heard the cliché, "Don't judge a book by its cover". Which, typically is in the context of misjudging someone by their appearance or first impression in a negative sense. We've all had the experience where, initially, we think a person is rude or weird only to find out, after getting to know them more, that they weren't at all those things but were actually awesome. Very rarely, though, the cliché is applied to the potential danger that accompanies beauty. Paul speaks about this danger in the passage we're focusing on this week. It's so important to realize that our greatest enemy does not present himself as a repulsive, malevolent, decaying creature. Instead, he transforms himself into a beautiful angel of light. In other words, if we judge the nature of Satan and his strategies by our first impression we will be deceived. The reason this type of deception is so powerful is because it is attractive. We all have a natural propensity toward beauty. For us, as human beings, as men, beauty is like the bug light and we're the bug. The difference for us should be that we have made ourselves aware of the deceptive nature of beauty. Now, let's be clear, beauty in and of itself, is not evil. Quite the contrary, beauty is part of God's creation. But like so many other aspects of the creation, the fall has corrupted its purpose. Satan has taken advantage of beauty's attractive qualities and uses it for his malevolent purposes. What this means is that whenever we find ourselves being drawn to something beautiful our discernment should kick in. This week let's consider all that is beautiful and discuss the particular areas that this type of deception are found.

**Read the Proverb and the section of Psalm 119 that corresponds with the calendar day example:**  
*If it's the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the month, read Proverbs 1 and Psalm 119:1-8 (Aleph)*

### **The deceptive potential of beauty**

**Mon:** False teachers: "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers..." II Corinthians 11:1-15 esp. 13-15

**Tue:** The World: "Love not...the things of the World..." I John 2:15-23

**Wed:** Joseph's Example: "...he left his garment...and fled and ran" Genesis 39

**Thu:** Wisdom: "...This wisdom does not descend from above..." James 3:13-18

**Fri:** The Beauty of Christ: "...there is no beauty that we should desire him..." Isaiah 53 esp. verse 2

### **Discussion Questions for Bible Café:**

1. List at least five examples of where beauty can be deceptive (besides the obvious: Women/Pornography, etc...not that those aren't important).

2. What is attractive about each of the things you listed above? How do we discern regarding these?

**Prayer Requests of your Bible Café brothers (on back):**