

## **Sovereign Grace Church**

### ***“Self-Deception to Self-Knowledge” outline***

August 11, 2019

#### **Proverbs 14: 8; Jeremiah 17: 9-10**

*The magic of self-deception is that you are not aware of it....at least not directly. It is a “feeling-focused” condition instead of a “truth-focused” one. It is an effort to get Reality to match your reality-challenged desires. But it is not really a very happy place to be....especially in the long term! For example, to think you are getting fat when in fact you are becoming skin and bones is really life-threatening. But the most self-deceived people of all are those who suppress their knowledge of God. These people will tell you that you are the one who is self-deceived for believing in God when He is not real!*

*How are we delivered from our self-deceit? Only with the assistance of Someone who knows us better than we know ourselves. Without such a Someone we are condemned to our self-deceptions Does such a Someone exist? According to Scripture it is the FOOL that says there is no God! Why? Because if there is no personal God w/ Whom I can relate, I am left to myself and my deceptions. I am “condemned”, as Sartre says, “to be free; because once thrown into the world, (I) am responsible for everything (I) do.” If there is no one do deliver me from me, then the Book of Romans ends at chapter 7 verse 24! I cannot think of anything more horrible!*

#### **1. Self-deception Jer. 17: 9**

- a matter of the heart
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- natural....but not normal Jer. 10: 23; Gen. 3: 5

#### **2. Self-deception and the unbeliever Rom. 1: 18-19, 22-23; I Tim. 4: 1-2**

**3. Self-deception and the believer**  
**Gal. 6: 3; Lk 9: 23-24**

- **Example: Pharisaical Legalisms**  
**Matt 5: 20**

**4. Deliverance from Self-deception and Dying to Self**  
**Gal. 5: 22-23; Jms 5: 19-20; I Cor. 4: 5; Psm 139: 23-24**

**Questions for Conversation and Discussion**

- 1. Have you ever deceived yourself about something? How did you find out? Once you were “discovered” by yourself what were your thoughts? Were you happy about no longer having to hide behind a “false front”? Or not? Why do you think we deceive ourselves about certain matters in the first place?**
- 2. Why is God necessary for complete deliverance from our self-deceptions? How can we be used by God for the deliverance of others from self-deception? What are some dangers in this enterprise? What is the proper frame-of-mind in approaching the rebuke of a brother or sister in Christ? What about our interactions with other unbelievers? Can you be loving and confrontive at the same time? What is the difference between a “loving rebuke” and a “judgmental rebuke”? How might we be deceived ourselves in this matter?**
- 3. The Pharisees were deceived in thinking they were being righteous in their obedience to the law. What were they not seeing....or suppressing? What is the difference between Jesus' understanding of righteousness and the Pharisees understanding? Is legalism a problem only with law-keeping? How must you understand God's law and your obedience to it without falling into some variety of legalism?**
- 4. What is the solution to the problem of self-deception? Why is a self-focused analysis of our inner thoughts and motivations generally not very helpful.....at least if left to itself? What is needed for complete deliverance? How might praying through Psalm 139: 23-24 be a good way to start each day?**