

# Seeing Without Perception

First a question; out of the so-called `good` people of this world, what do you the reader think is intrinsically wrong with the way that people in general are all too easily ready to acknowledge and proclaim the `goodness` that they see in others?

It would appear to me that their biggest error of judgment or rather perception is caused by the fact that there is so much wickedness and evil within this world and `modern` society in particular. It is to be found in most individual`s everyday life, if not on an actual physical face to face personal level, then certainly on an emotional, spiritual level. Nowadays it is constantly introduced and firmly placed there by the world`s media, through TV etc., and because of this, any thing or any person that appears even momentarily to be seen to rise above this daily torrent of lawlessness and sneering abuse, is held aloft as being good and righteous, when in fact if history is used as a guide, it can be seen to be nothing more than behaviour which not so long ago would have been accepted as the norm, and would never have been vaunted as being exceptional and certainly not as being `good`.

People are daily being indoctrinated by evil and Satanically inspired practices and doctrines which pass for `entertainment` and these more often than not come in the shape and form of movies, `music`, computer games and documentary programmes which constantly promote the idea of `evolution` and therefore Godlessness. (No God, no laws, who cares?) We can therefore appreciate that anything or any person that appears to be seen by the general public to be even remotely on a higher spiritual level is instantly seized upon by those who are seeking a more Godly and a more spiritual way of life. Unfortunately for these people, comparing that which these days is perceived to be `good` against that which is so obviously evil is of no use in arriving at a true definition of that which is good, after all, even a half rotten apple is preferable to a whole barrel-full of totally rotten ones. When the world`s daily news is constantly full of such things as mass murders, rape, child pornography and abuse, dishonest and lying politicians and police officers, Satanic and perverted priests, murdering doctors and nurses, unjust laws and lawyers, criminals being treated better than those who try to keep the law, to name but a few things, is it any wonder that the general public have lost track of that which is genuinely good as opposed to that which is simply mediocre law abiding? Is it any wonder that decent and potentially decent people who realise that they themselves are not `saints` then begin to compare their wrong-doings against those people who are perceived to be `good` but more especially against those who are perceived to be truly evil, with the resultant outcome that they think they are pretty `good` themselves and therefore their sins before the Lord God become as nothing to them, as not being sin at all, whereas they should have been comparing their lives against those of Jesus Christ and His saints. For our first scripture in this article let`s read from **2 Corinthians 10: 12**. `For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves, because they measuring themselves by themselves and comparing themselves amongst themselves, are not wise to do so`.

We who are aware should be able to appreciate by observing the current state of this world that by using other people`s behaviour as a `yardstick` against our own behaviour is not the right thing to be doing. The arch demon Satan is the current `ruler` of this world and at the moment the Lord God is allowing him to hold more and more sway, which is why most of the people of

this world have now rejected the very existence of the Lord God and are doing what they think is right in their own minds by using their own flawed and demonically inspired judgments. Turn your back on the Lord and you will end up facing Satan. It's as simple as that!

Since the end of the second world war technology has progressed in massive leaps and bounds, man has begun to imagine that he can now achieve anything that he sets his mind to achieve, and I suppose that it will only be a matter of time before he begins to come to the ludicrous conclusion that he has actually created himself, billions of years ago and that physical life is nothing more than some sort of super-virtual reality game being indulged in by themselves as bored, ethereal `time lords`. Anyway, over the last 70 years as man has been allowed to progress technologically unfortunately he has also backslid morally, arrogantly assuming that sin is nothing more than an invention of the world's religious organizations. This being the case we find that what was considered to be totally unacceptable 30 years ago is now accepted as everyday, and what was considered to be outrageous ten years ago now goes unnoticed or commented upon, and what was once considered to be average or even trashy is now vaunted as something special and worthwhile aiming for, even giving out certificates of merit and competence for being `qualified` to do certain `no brainer` jobs such as brushing the streets or washing up pots and pans. And so it continues and will continue until those who are in government over us are replaced by God-fearing people who do not care about being popular with the electorate. Let's find out what the Lord God has to say about these officials and their `high` ideals and expectations, we'll read from the book of **Luke 16: 15**. `And He (Jesus) said to them, **You are they that justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts, for that which is highly esteemed amongst men is evil in the sight of God`.**

If only the `christian` people in our societies would cast off the cares of this world (even if it were only on every Sabbath day) and pick up their bibles and read them for themselves using this great book as a sure guide through the minefield of evil which the present state of this world, under the misguidance of Satan and his demons, has laid out before us, they would then discover what some of the true saints and prophets thought of themselves and of their own lives as compared to that which they knew to be truly good, then these `christian` people would realise just how far short of the mark their own perception of `good` really is!

So having said that it's time to once again refer to the scriptures and and read for ourselves some of the examples of self deprecation expressed by `good` saintly men confessing that they are not as good as other men would make them out to be. Remember, that even our Lord and God whilst with us in the flesh, in the shape and form of Jesus Christ, stated that He was not to be called good, so let's begin with that scripture, **Mark 10: 17-18**. `And when He was gone forth into the way, there came one running who kneeled before Him, and asked Him, **Good Master, what shall I do in order to inherit eternal life? And Jesus said to him, Why do you call Me good? there is none good but One, that is God`.** So we may well wonder having read that, where does that leave each and every one of us? Well maybe we can take some comfort from this next scripture, **Matthew 19: 24-26**. `And again I say to you, **it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. When His disciples heard this they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved? But Jesus beheld them and said to them, With men this is impossible; but with God, all things are possible`.** . Even so, we should none of us become complacent, the Lord will only help those of us who continually strive to do His good and perfect will as opposed to the easy, Satanic worldly options open to us if we do not. Think about this, if we do not study (read) the scriptures on a daily basis how are we supposed to even begin to know that which is the Lord's good and perfect will? and

if we don't know it then how can we perform it? Don't rely on a `christian` priest or minister to tell you, because it's patently obvious to any true Christian that these clergymen do not themselves perform the good and perfect will of the Lord God! Let's once again read the words of Jesus Christ, this time from the book of **Matthew 23: 3-7**. `All therefore whatever they bid you observe, observe and do, (because they will quote from the bible) but do not copy the way that they do things, because they say to do, but do not do themselves. For they bind upon you heavy burdens, grievous to be carried, and they lay them upon your shoulders, but they themselves will not lift a finger to carry one. But all of the works that they do are for show, to be seen by men: they make wide their phylacteries, (make a show of their `piousness`) and exaggerate their importance. They love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues (churches) and greetings in the markets and to be called of men, `teacher` (or `reverend` or `father`).

We must take responsibility for our own salvation as it says in the book of **Philippians 2: 12**. `Wherefore my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling`. We must ask the Lord daily through prayer for forgiveness of our sins even if we imagine that we have not committed any sins on that day, because I can assure you (because our judgment is not perfect) that we will have!

The majority of people flee from the truth these days, but they cannot escape from it, one day it will catch them and they will be confronted with it. Therefore it is far better to face up to it now, in this life, and try to make amends whilst amends can still be made, than to be judged by it in the next life! I wonder how many people have heard of or read for themselves this next piece of scripture and have deliberately turned their backs on it or purposefully tried to forget it perhaps in the hope that their feigned ignorance of it will help with their chances of salvation? **Hebrews 10: 26-31**. `For if we sin wilfully after having received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice for sins. But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the enemies. He that despised Moses` law died without mercy by the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much sorer punishment should you suppose shall he be thought worthy, who has trodden under foot the Son of God, and has counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and has insulted the spirit of grace? For we know Him who has said, Vengeance belongs to Me, I will recompense, says the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge His people. It is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of the living God`.

How many people reading this article have read the book of Job? The scriptures tell us that Job was a righteous man, blameless and upright in the eyes of the Lord God, let's read of this in **Job 1: 1**. `There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, he feared God and shunned evil`. The Lord God even spoke of Job`s righteousness to Satan, **Job 1: 8**. `And the Lord said to Satan, Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?`. Well, even for all of Job`s righteousness, the book of Job goes on to tell the reader that compared to the true righteousness of the Lord God, Job`s righteousness was as nothing, and poor old Job eventually realised and confessed this, and what was Job`s final opinion of himself? let's read **Job 42: 1-6**. `Then Job answered the Lord and said, I know that You can do every thing, and that no thought can be withheld from You. Who is he that hides counsel without knowledge? therefore have I spoken of that which I did not know, things too wonderful for me to know of. Hear me, I beseech You, I will speak, I will demand of You, and declare You to me. I had heard

of You by the hearing of the ear: but now my eyes see You. And because of this I despise myself, and I repent in dust and ashes`.

We are living in very perilous times, we are not only in danger physically which for most of us is easy to perceive and possibly make plans to avoid, but far more seriously and far more stealthily we are in great peril spiritually. We know that we can be killed physically but I wonder how many realise that our `soul`, which is not immortal, can also be killed as well? we can also, whilst still alive in the flesh, die spiritually. To find a description of the times in which we now find ourselves living we can read from the book of **2 Timothy 3: 1-7.** `This also know, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to their parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce breakers, false accusers, without self control, fierce, despisers of those that are law-abiding, traitors, heady, conceited, lovers of self indulgent pleasures rather than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such people turn away, for of this sort also are they which worm their way into households and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with various lusts. They are forever learning but they never come to the knowledge of the truth`. Yes, the world has slowly but surely been, and is still being, led away from obeying the eternal life-giving spiritual laws of the Lord God, and is now being more and more led by the Satanic lie that there is no God, and this being the case then there is no such thing as sin, and this being the case then you can do exactly as you want to do just as long as the man-made laws of the land in which you happen to live in do not catch you out. There is no longer a need for an individual who does not believe in an Almighty God Creator to take any notice of what little `conscience` (the inbuilt knowledge of right and wrong) he or she may have left. The result of this mindset? chaos, confusion, dispute, every man a law unto himself, which in reality is no law at all! So what of the law-abiding true Christians during these times? well, staying in the book of Timothy let`s read from **2 Timothy 3: 12-13.** `Yes, and all who live Godly in Christ Jesus, shall suffer persecution. But evil men and imposters will grow from bad to worse, deceiving and in their turn being deceived`. And also a bit further on **2 Timothy 4: 3-4.** `For the time will come (has now already come!) when they will not listen to sound (honest) teaching, but after their own desires they will heap up to themselves teachers (teaching things that they want to hear) having itching ears. (all too ready to believe it) **They shall turn their ears away from the truth and shall begin to believe in fables`.** (lying, man-made `fairy tales`, myths and legends)

Let`s, at this point, go to the subject of the lie that most of the so-called `christian` churches of this world constantly perpetuate, this is the lie that all personal responsibility for our individual sins has been done away with since the sacrifice in the flesh, of our God Creator, Jesus Christ, and as a consequence it is now impossible for a person`s sins not to be forgiven them, no matter what they do or how many times they continue to commit them as long as they regularly confesses them to a priest or minister or whatever, and pay their `conscience money` to their church, thus leaving them free to carry on sinning, free from all guilt, for as long as they want to. Oh Really? Let us not be deceived as the world is deceived, we do not need a minister or a priest made of mere flesh and blood, whose sins are probably much greater because of the things that they preach, than the person whose sins they have taken it upon themselves to forgive! We do not need (and the Lord forbids us to have) a human mediator between ourselves and our God, because we already have our Mediator in the shape and form of our Lord Jesus Christ, and any human, rather than being a mediator for us, becomes instead, a brick wall, a barrier between ourselves and our God! Remember the scripture concerning the `barrier` between ourselves and

the Lord, the veil of the temple which pictured the separating of ourselves from the Lord because of our sins? let`s read of it in **Matthew 27: 50-51.** `Jesus, when He had cried again in a loud voice, yeilded up His spirit. And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom. . .`. Before the veil was torn in two, only the high priest could enter into the presence of the Lord and communicate directly with Him, but by the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ, we can all of us, through sincere prayer (rather than repetitive, muttering `lip-service`) make that intimate contact for ourselves. Jesus Christ is constantly there for those of us who seek Him, He and He alone is to be trusted to be our spiritual guide, our guide to everlasting life, but as with any guide, He is of no help whatsoever to any individual that does not `employ` Him. If any other `spiritual guide` or mediator is used then we end up with the blind leading the blind, and we can see what happens when that situation arises by reading Jesus` words in **Matthew 15: 14.** Let them alone; for they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind then they shall fall into the ditch`.

Many people are confused about being saved and of being or not being `under the law`. Some think that the coming of Jesus Christ did away with the ten commandments because they were part of the old testimony, the *old* agreement, well let`s see what Jesus Himself has to say about that in **Matthew 5: 17-18.** `Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets, I am not come to destroy but to fulfill. (complete, underline to the utmost) For truly I say unto you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one jot nor one tittle (letter or small mark) shall in anyway disappear from the law, until all things be fulfilled`. And now to **Luke 16:17.** `And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than for one tittle (small mark) of the law to fail`. We should now, from the reading of these scriptures, be able to understand that we are not by automatic right, saved because of the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus, rather we are given the chance to repent *for ourselves* of our sins, to change from that which are carnal mind desires to be, to become that which our Heavenly Father wants us to be. We have to be constantly working very hard to achieve this, it does not come naturally to most of us, our salvation is not automatic, it has to be earned, and in these latter days it is becoming increasingly difficult for an individual to remain focused upon that which is right and pleasing before our God. Let`s have a read from the book of **Romans 2: 3-11.** `And do you think O man who judges others but commits the same sins himself, that you shall escape the judgment of the Lord God? Or do you despise the riches of His goodness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that the goodness of God, leads you to repentance? But after your hardness and your impenitent heart, you treasure up for yourself wrath against wrath and the revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who will render to every man according to the deeds he has committed. To them who have by patient continuance in well-doing, seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life. But to those who are selfish and do not obey the truth, but instead obey unrighteousness, to these indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish upon every soul of man that does evil, of the Jew first and then also the Gentile. Glory, honour and peace to every man that works good, to the Jew first and also to the Gentile. For there is no respect of persons with God`.

Within the pages of the scriptures, can there be found anything that is relevent to that which is now happening (and has been for hundreds of years!) to the so-called `great religions` of this world, particularly the mainstream `christian` religions? Well we`ll have a read from the book of Romans again, **Romans 1: 17-22.** `For therein is the righteousness of God, revealed from faith to faith, as it is written, `the just shall live by faith`. For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness. Because that which may be known of God is known to them because God has

revealed it to them. For the invisible things of Him, from the creation of the world, are to be clearly perceived, being seen and understood by the things that He created, this includes His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse. Because that when they knew (of a God) they did not glorify Him as (the one) God, and neither were they thankful, but instead became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they instead became fools. And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man (stone and plaster `saints` and the like) and to birds and four footed beasts and creeping things. And so God gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves. They have changed the truth of God into a lie, and have worshipped and served that which is created rather than He who created it, He who is blessed forever, Amen`. As it is written in verse 17 of that scripture, `the just shall live by faith`, the word `faith` of course means belief, belief that the Lord God can not only do anything that we with our limited intelligence imagine that He can do, but also anything that *He* imagines and wants to do!

What is seen by the masses as regards the world`s `christian` churches, and the clergy that operate them, is all the man-made pomp and ceremony. But what is not perceived is that all of the `holy` festivals and `holy` days, (including `sunday`) of these `christian` churches are not holy at all! in fact the Lord God wants nothing whatsoever to do with them! or the people that promote them! Let`s read His words against them in **Amos 5: 21.** `I hate, I despise your feast days, and I do not take any delight in your appointed assemblies`. The people of this world should not leave the responsibility for their own salvation in the hands of other men, particularly those of the clergy who give the impression that they are qualified and holy enough to do it, believe me, better still believe the scriptures, no such men exist!!! Let`s read from **Romans 16: 17-18.** `Now I beseech you bretheren, mark those who cause divisions and offences contrary to the teaching (that which is written in the biblical scriptures) which you have learned. ; and avoid them. Because they that are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but rather their own needs; and by good words and fair speeches they manage to deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting`.

Belief in the Lord God is a good starting point for any Christian, but it is just that, a starting point, take no notice of the `christian` churches of this world who love to be heard and seen proclaiming that `all you need to do to be saved is to just believe`, because following that lie could kill a person, permanently! These churches only promote this lie so that they can make it *seem* easy for a person to become a Christian, thus attracting more people into pews and as a consequence adding more money to the already considerable church assets! The book of James has somewhat to tell us about this `just believe` doctrine, **James 2: 19-20.** `You say that you believe that there is one God, you do well; (sarcasm) the demons also believe this, but they tremble. (at the very thought of Him) But will you understand, O foolish man, that faith (belief) without any works, is dead? **verses 24 and 26.** `You see then that by works a man is made right, and not by faith alone. For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith (belief) without works is dead also`. Most `christians` do not have the strength of belief/faith that they perhaps think that they have. Strength of faith is a God-given gift, it is not something that a person can buy or set out to acquire if the Lord does not want to give it to that particular person, but all true Christians possess this gift, **1 Corinthians 12: 8-9.** `For to one person is given by the spirit the gift of the word of wisdom, to another the gift of the word of knowledge by the same spirit. To another the gift of faith by the same spirit, to another the gift of healing by the same spirit`. Now as with any such a gift, attribute or talent if you like, if it is not exercised and put to work and tested regularly, it weakens, it becomes sloppy, ineffectual and ultimately useless, it has

become a lazy faith, something that a person has but which that person has knowingly or unknowingly put into the controlling hands of another, usually a member of the clergy. When this happens to a person's faith then that person becomes more and more dependent on their priest or minister who they then turn to for spiritual help and guidance rather than getting down on their knees and praying for themselves to the Lord God for that guidance and that help. Because they rely on the services of their clergy so much, these people have in effect lost their faith in God, a God that they can neither see nor touch, but the truth is that to a true believer, a person who has true faith, patiently built up over the years, the Lord can always be `seen` and His presence can always be `felt`. If you constantly turn to a minister or a priest for absolute spiritual guidance, or ask them to communicate with the Lord God on your behalf, it benefits you nothing, because it renders the loving sacrifice on the torture stake (cross) of our Lord Jesus as a worthless and a pointless exercise to you. But, as bad as this is, there is something that is even worse, even more treacherous for a person to commit, and this is to treat a minister or priest as if he were holy, even at times as if he were God Himself ! This sort of misplaced reverence leads a person to start to blindly follow their clergy and to hang on *every* unchecked word as being gospel truth when in fact most of what they say and do has been invented and manufactured over the years by their `superiors` within their blasphemous and Satanic, church hierarchy. Let's read **2 Peter 1: 20-21** and **2: 1-3**. `Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy of old time did not come by the will of man, but by holy men of God, who spoke as the holy spirit moved them to speak. But also amongst the people there were false prophets (teachers, clergy) even as there will be false teachers amongst you, who secretly (slyly) shall introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Lord (Jesus) who has bought them (by his sacrifice) bringing upon themselves swift destruction. Many shall follow their pernicious ways by reason of whom the way of the truth shall be evil spoken of. And through greed they shall with insincere words make merchandise (make money) of you. Their judgment now of a long time wanting, lingers not, and their damnation does not sleep`. As evil as all of this is, there is yet one more thing that is worse for an individual to commit, and this is to know and to understand that what a minister or priest does or tells them to do is wrong and then to ignore that fact, brush it aside and go and do it anyway! Now if a person does this often enough then not only does that person perpetuate the lie but they also become a living, influencing and active part of the lie, until eventually, because they now live the lie and have done so for so long, they have come to believe it, they have forgotten what the truth is. Let's read from the book of **2 Timothy 4: 3-4**. `For the time will come (it has by now!) when they will not entertain sound teaching, but after their own wants and lusts they will appoint for themselves teachers, having ears all too ready to listen to them. They shall turn away from listening to and believing the truth, and instead they shall believe in fables` (man-made fairy tales, myths and legends)

By following lies instigated by false `christian` churches and clergy, a person, even a nation, will end up following a man, and this is nothing more or less than Satanic idolatry. So let's have a read about what scripture has to tell us about idolatry, we'll find some of it in **1 Corinthians 10: 5-7**. `But with many of them God was not well pleased, and therefore they were destroyed in the wilderness. Now such things as this were examples to us so that we should not lust after evil things, as they lusted. So do not any of you become idolaters as some of them became, for as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play` The Lord God considers idolatry to be a most serious sin, indeed the first and second commandments concern this, but what did that last scripture indicate to us to be its `bed-fellows`? Well, for starters, how about

sexual immorality or `freedom` as they like to call it these days? Remember the scripture, the people `rose up to play`, now they were not playing hide and seek, tennis or football, they were having, for want of a more precise definition, an orgy! They put the expressed will of the Lord to one side and in its` place they performed their will, they did that which they would *rather* do. Can you see that anything that a person places between themselves and the Lord God is idolatrous, it does not have to be a lump of carved wood or a moulded plaster `saint` or a `lucky charm`. By committing idolatry we also `tempt` (test) the Lord, a thing which is expressly forbidden, **Matthew 4: 7.** `Jesus said to him, It is written again, You shall not tempt the Lord your God`. So, how does idolatry test (tempt) the Lord? well for one it tests His patience with us but more significantly every time a person commits idolatry they are basically demonstrating to, and convincing themselves that they believe that God cannot do anything unless it is channelled through a `lucky` charm or an object (idol) of worship, thus suggesting that His powers are limited and that He cannot do anything without the intervention of a man-made talisman or a member of the clergy. Even if we complain and grumble about what we may consider to be the Lord`s harsh and cruel ways, we are committing a form of idolatry! How? Well, in order to grumble against the Lord, we must have concluded that we would not have acted in that way and in those circumstances, therefore we must have assumed that we had a way of doing things that was superior to that of the Lord`s way of doing things and/or we do not have the faith to trust the outcome of what the Lord has done to be ultimately beneficial for us. Can we see that by complaining against the Lord we are putting our own way of seeing of that which is right and wrong before that of the Lord`s? and, as stated earlier, anything that comes between a person and the Lord, is idolatrous. We only have to read the scriptures to find out what the Lord has done to those who constantly complained against Him and His ways, **Numbers 21: 5-7.** `And the people spoke against God and against Moses, saying, wherefore have You brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread and neither is there any water, and our people detest this light bread. (the manna) So the Lord sent fiery serpents amongst the people, and they bit the people, and many of the people died. Therefore the people came to Moses and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord . . .` Yes, idolatry is a crime right up there with murder in the Lord`s eyes, don`t believe it? well let`s have a look at this scripture from the book of **Revelation 22: 14-15.** `Blessed are they that perform the Lord`s commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. But outside (probably destroyed in the lake of fire) are dogs and sorcerers, and whoremongers and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loves and makes a lie`. Idolatry, the Lord God hates it and all those who practise it, but a person must be able to perceive it before they can renounce it because it takes many shapes and forms, anything from `hero` worship to `lucky` charms and superstition. It can be very subtle in its` many and varied manifestations, and the word `subtle` is used only the once in the bible, and we can find it in **Genesis 3: 1.** `Now the serpent (Satan the devil) was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. . .` Strong`s definition of the word `subtle` as used in this context means, `crafty`, and the dictionary definition of the word `crafty` is; wily, artful, cunning. Yes, idolatry is very subtle, approach almost anybody on your local high street and ask them whether or not they indulge in any form of it and they will more likely than not tell you that they don`t even believe in God so why should they bow down before an idol? They do not see, let alone perceive that they commit idolatry every day, every time that they, in our modern and technological God-denying/defying age, swoon and drool over and/or pay respect to movie and pop `stars`, footballers, motor cars, national flags and emblems, clothes, fashion models, etc.,

even politicians who they vote for to rule over them, and of course their beloved, *false* Christian churches and clergy. The list is practically endless because it includes anything and everything that is thought more often of and/or is praised more highly than the Lord God.

Idolatry is in most cases an *unpercieved* barrier which a person places between themselves and the Lord God, and in our present world it is more than likely the cause of the spiritual blindness/unawareness which so freely abounds. Let`s read from the book of **1 Corinthians 10: 12-14**. `Wherefore let him who thinks that he stands beware in case he should fall. There is no temptation that you have been subjected to that is not common to all men, but God is faithful, and He will not allow you to suffer trials that you are not able to cope with, but will because of these trials provide you with a way to overcome them, so that they are able to be tolerated. Wherefore my beloved, have nothing to do with idolatry`.

Any *true* Christian minister is of course worthy of respect, but not blind obedience. No mere man/minister/priest should be blindly followed by a church of fawning, unquestioning sycophants all walking in his shadow. True Christians should not be walking in shadow but in the light, in the light of the knowledge of the scriptures, because without this knowledge, this light, how can we expect to clearly see? **Matthew 6: 22-23**. `The light of the body is the eyes, if therefore your eyes see clearly (with understanding/perception) then your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes be evil (unfocussed, seeing only what you want to see) then your whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!`. We can understand from that last scripture that we must persevere to understand the scriptures, and in our daily lives and socialising with others, to look without lusting, and without coveting or worshipping that which is not worthy of worship. Nobody has said that this is an easy thing to do, but we can be sure that if the Lord God expects it of us, then it is not impossible for it to be done!

For the last scripture in this article we`ll read from **John 8: 12**. `Then Jesus spoke to them again saying, I am the light of the world: he that follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life`. If we follow the Lord Jesus and *nobody else*, we will not be `blind` and we will constantly have a light by which we can see, but much more than just see, we will have a light by which we can *perceive*. If we ever turn our backs on that light, then we will stumble and fall into the darkness of our own shadow, and we will have no excuse for having done so!