



**COLLINSVILLE – TROY**  
CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Focus. Find. Follow.

# The Correspondent

**SUNDAY**

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM & 6:00 PM

**WEDNESDAY**

Bible Study (Adult) 1:30 PM

Bible Study (All Ages) 7:00 PM

[www.collinsvillecoc.org](http://www.collinsvillecoc.org)

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*For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)*

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## Be Not Deceived

**D**eception is a terrible thing. It can come from another or one can deceive himself. Regardless, it is terrible because it can bring such tragic results. Deceivers abound in today's society. Frequently there are reports of those who have lost large sums of money because they have been duped. Though it is tragic to lose a life's savings, the greatest tragedy is if one is deceived spiritually, for it will cost him his eternal life.

One might deceive himself. Paul wrote, *"Let no man deceive himself. If any man thinketh that he is wise among you in this world, let him become a fool, that he may become wise"* (1 Corinthians 3:18).

There are those who think they are wise in this world and do not listen to God's word. Maybe it is because of their own desires. When something is desired enough, they convince themselves that it is correct and are hardened to the truth of God's word. Paul follows the above statement with, *"For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God"* (1 Corinthians 3:19).

One might be deceived by his own pride. The Edomites were filled with pride and trusted in their natural surroundings, for their city was easily protected due to its position in the mountains. Obadiah wrote, *"The pride of thy heart hath deceived thee, O thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high; that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground"* (Obadiah 1:3)?

There are those today who have become self-sufficient in their own eyes. They do not need God. They trust in their riches, their abilities, their accomplishments. Paul knew where his sufficiency was, *"not that we are sufficient of ourselves, to account anything as from ourselves; but our sufficiency is from God"* (2 Corinthians 3:5).

One might also be deceived by others. Paul warned, *"Let no man deceive you with empty words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the sons of disobedience"* (Ephesians 5:6).

Some will listen to others, whether it is a trusted teacher, a preacher, friends or even parents. There is danger in doing so blindly (Matthew 15:14). Certainly we should study under and learn from those who can teach us God's word. That is the way God intended (John 6:45). But each one has a responsibility to study for himself/herself. For even the most trusted can be wrong and deceive others, whether innocently or intentionally.

It is one thing to be killed due to deception. Yet, death is just a departure from this life to another. If one is properly prepared through obedience to God, that death is not so tragic (2 Timothy 4:7-8). However, if one has been deceived spiritually, the departure from this life is tragic because that one departs with an unfounded peace and will enter an eternity of punishment (Matthew 25:46; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9) Paul sums it up as follows, *"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth unto his own flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth unto the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap eternal life"* (Galatians 6:7-8).

Terry Mabery