

# North Christian Church -

## Pastor Ed Collins

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

11/15/16 - The "Difficult" Passages - Grace and Works -  
Part 21

### **Deception is always lurking...**

Unless we stand on guard, by the Word and the Spirit, we will be caught unawares by the devices of our great enemies, namely, Satan, the world, and our own flesh.

### **Deception is always lurking...**

If you get tied up in the details of life (e.g.: the election), you've opened the door to mass confusion in your soul!

### **An Unfair Fight**

Satan is a super genius. You are not. If you think you can defeat him in your flesh, you are sadly mistaken. He will crush your spirit before you even realize what happened. The ONLY way to defeat ("resist") him is through the power of God (the Word and the Spirit).

### **An Unfair Fight**

If Satan's a genius, do you really think he's so STUPID to try to pick a fight with you on God's terms??? Do you really think he's going to advertise what he's doing in your life??? Do you really think he's going to announce his strategy to you???

### **Deception is always lurking...**

If you get tied up in the details of life (e.g.: the election), you've opened the door to mass confusion in your soul!

### **Eph 6:16**

*in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.*

### **Perspective Requires Clarity**

If you're vision is clouded by anxiety, the details of life, or the wrong priorities, you won't be able to see things for what they truly are. If you are handicapped this way, it's easy for your enemies to lead you astray. (Ps 119:105)

### **Perspective Requires Clarity**

Being humble before His Word will light our path, period. We can count on that/ Him.

## **John 10:10**

*"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."*

### **Perspective Requires Clarity**

Your enemies aren't interested in stealing your personal belongings, or even something as temporal as the presidency of the United States. They are interested in stealing your peace so that you are too debilitated to spread the Gospel!

If we as believers are here to obey our Lord's Great Commission, and we can actually have a part in SAVING OTHERS FOR ALL ETERNITY, wouldn't that be Satan's target, to take away your peace so you "can't" march forward as a good soldier of Christ Jesus?

### **Jas 4:7**

*Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*

### **"that you may see"**

The Spirit's been trying to open your eyes to the whole truth about your life. He's telling you to drop any vestiges of the self-life you might be clinging to, to stop fellowshiping with the world, and to quit playing games.

### **The Little Things (Lk 16, 19)**

It's often easier to walk in the general direction of goodness and be unkempt, spiritually. It's analogous to a person who is able to keep a job, but shows up consistently hung over, filthy, etc.

### **A "Professional" Christian**

Professionals care about the little things; in fact that's what makes them good professionals, in any field. That's what makes a "good soldier" for Christ, 2Tim 2:3-4.

### **A "Professional" Christian**

A good Christian soldier is a professional soldier, who is humble and obedient, who pays attention to the little things, because he fears and respects the Lord.

### **2 Tim 2:3-4 The Message**

*When the going gets rough, take it on the chin with the rest of us, the way Jesus did. A soldier on duty doesn't get caught up in making deals at the marketplace. He concentrates on carrying out orders.*

### **The Little Things**

You might ask, "Why does the Lord care about all the 'little things'?"

### **The Little Things**

Simple...it's because He understands the erosive nature of our enemies. They tempt us to leave this or that small detail for later, to give in to worldly pressure, to intoxicate ourselves to numb the convicting ministry of the Spirit while doing so...

### **The Little Things (cont.)**

...and before we know it, all the little things, and all the micro-adjustments away from God's will for us, and all the steps we've taken in a perverted direction, add up to our being way off course!

**Spiritual reality**

What one believes in their heart inevitably appears in their life, whether good or bad.

**Stay the course!**

And stay focused on the little things, being a good soldier for Christ, because it may well be those little things that your friends see in you that turns them to Christ and His love.