

DANGERS OF “SPOOFING”

I can usually see them coming. They call with a number and name of a neighbor. Or they call as a company that you do business with. But they are deceivers doing what is called “spoofing.”

“Spoofing” is when a caller “deliberately falsifies the information transmitted to your caller ID display to disguise their identity. Scammers often use neighbor spoofing so it appears that an incoming call is coming from a local number, or spoof a number from a company or a government agency that you may already know and trust. If you answer, they use scam scripts to try to steal your money or valuable personal information, which can be used in fraudulent activity.”

(www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/spoofing-and-caller-id)

I almost fell for the deception last week. The gentleman called through my Verizon voicemail number and said he was with Verizon. He told me that someone was trying to purchase \$2100 in phones on my account. Naturally, I was startled as he asked me if I recognized this person’s name and address (which I didn’t). To stop this unauthorized purchase, I needed to give him some information that suddenly popped up on my Verizon text page. I gave it to him, but then noticed that it said that Verizon would never ask me to read this information back to them (uh oh!). He said a code would appear in the next text (and it did). I then realized that if I gave him this code it would allow him to reset my password and give him access to my account. He was not helping me stop a thief – **he was the thief!** I immediately ended the call, called Verizon to inform them, and then changed my password. (whew!)

Such deception is terrible, but spiritual deception is much worse because it can cost us more than money – we can lose our souls forever. Satan is the king of “spoofers” – he “transforms himself into an angel of light” and his ministers “transform themselves into ministers of righteousness” (2 Cor. 11:14-15). They come with a pleasing manner and flattering words claiming that they are only concerned about the truth and our souls. But it is a deception – they are wolves in sheep’s clothing who lie in wait to deceive (Matt. 7:15; Eph. 4:14). Test them with the word of God and it will expose their deceitfulness.

Stay alert for Satan and his deceptions! MWG

Hypocrites in the Church

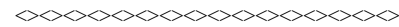
The man who says he is kept away from church by hypocrites is not influenced by them anywhere else. Business is full of them; but if he by chance sees where he can make some money, he does not hesitate because there are hypocrites making money.

Society is crowded with them, and yet he never thinks of becoming a hermit. Married life is full of them, but that does not make him remain a bachelor.

Hell will be full of them, and yet he is not doing anything to keep from going there. He makes you think he is trying to avoid hypocrites; and yet he takes not one single step towards the only place where no hypocrites can go — heaven.

Honestly now, is he not being a little hypocritical?

– anonymous



Why Didn’t Jesus Raise Joseph?

This question is based on the assumption that Jesus’ earthly father, Joseph, died before Jesus began His ministry. Since he is conspicuously absent at the cross when Jesus has John take His mother, Mary, into his own home, it is obvious that Joseph is not in the picture anymore. The most likely reason is that he is deceased.

If this indeed be the case, the loss of His earthly father and mentor would have brought great sadness to Jesus, as well to His mother and siblings. Jesus would understand the pain which so many others have experienced of losing a parent.

This raises the title question: Why didn’t Jesus raise His earthly father and bring about a joyous family reunion? He had the power – He raised his beloved friend Lazarus. Why not His own father?

The truth is that miracles were never used to selfishly benefit the one working the miracles. Jesus raised Lazarus not because He missed him as a friend but for the glory of God (Jn. 11:4, 40-42).

Miracles were given as evidence of the power and will of God. They attested to the truth about Jesus (Acts 2:22) and were signs of true apostleship (2 Cor. 12:12). They confirmed the truth of the gospel preached (Mk. 16:20; Heb. 2:3-4). The miracles recorded in the Bible continue to give reason to believe in Jesus as the Son of God (Jn. 20:30-31).

Jesus always did the will of the Father in working miracles and never His own will (Jn. 6:38). MWG