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# THE202 Decoding Deception

*2 credits*

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## **Course Description:**

With hundreds of Christian denominations with differing beliefs and untold numbers of cults and false religions, how can we possibly be sure that what we believe is true? How can we know if we are being told the truth or we are being deceived?

In this course, we will explore two major errors that may entice believers, comparing them to true Christianity. And more importantly, we will discover how to receive revelation truth through the logos and rhema of God, through biblical meditation and the direct communication of the Spirit to your heart.

Prerequisite: REN103/503

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## **Course Texts:**

*Decoding Deception Workbook* – Mark Virkler

*Am I Being Deceived?* – Mark and Patti Virkler

*Hearing God Through Biblical Meditation* – Mark and Patti Virkler

*Decoding Deception* audio or video teaching sessions – Mark Virkler

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## **Course Objectives:**

- ♦ Quote the following Scriptures:
  - ✓ John 16:13, 14
  - ✓ Jeremiah 29:13

- ✓ 1 Corinthians 2:10, 16b
  - ✓ Psalm 119:18
  - ✓ Joshua 1:8
  - ✓ Luke 24:32
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- Define each of the following terms:
    - ✓ biblical meditation
    - ✓ dispensationalism
    - ✓ demythologization
    - ✓ godly imagination
    - ✓ heretic
    - ✓ heresy
  - Seek Truth not in information but in revelation.
  - Discuss the difference between western study and biblical meditation.
  - State and use the four keys to hearing God's voice.
  - Discuss the key difference between true Christianity, phariseeism, and the New Age.
  - Discuss the standard(s) by which we determine what we believe to be true.
  - Discuss the core difference between Jesus' lifestyle and that of the pharisees, and embrace it for yourself.
  - State the seven lies of phariseeism.
  - Discuss the two philosophies behind satan's original lie to Adam.
  - Define dispensationalism and demythologization.
  - State and use the seven-step meditation process that results in revelation.
  - State and use the various ingredients of biblical meditation.

- Discuss how to guide a group in entering and living a Bible story under the leading of the Holy Spirit
- State the definitions of heresy and heretic.
- Discuss the differences between a false teacher and a true teacher.
- Discuss the attitudes and beliefs that will prevent you from welcoming new revelations.
- State and discuss the three keys to the anointing according to Galatians 5:6.
- Discuss the importance of having only a godly imagination.

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## Course Requirements

1. Listen to or watch the entire teaching series *Decoding Deception*. Follow along and take notes in your PowerPoint Workbook. These notes are for your benefit and will not be submitted to your instructor. Complete all related exercises given in the lesson. These exercises will all be submitted to your instructor.
2. Prayerfully read the entire text *Hearing God Through Biblical Meditation* as assigned. (NOTE: You will not read the chapters in order.) Answer all the “Reflect” questions and “Meditation Prompts.” **IMPORTANT:** Though the “Reflect” questions and “Meditation Prompts” are not written as such, be sure that you use two-way journaling to answer them whenever appropriate.

You will be told in each lesson which assignments you will be to submit to your instructor. Pay attention to the Assignment Schedule so you prepare the required work in a way that can be easily submitted to your instructor by email.

3. Prayerfully read the entire text *Am I Being Deceived?* as assigned. (NOTE: You will not read the chapters in order.) You will be given the exercises for this text in each lesson, so pay attention to the Assignment Schedule. These exercises will be submitted to your instructor.
4. Earn at least a B on the Final Test.

5. Write a Final Paper which discusses what the Lord has shown you through the course about how to live free from deception. This paper is to be 3-4 pages in length and is due in the final lesson.

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## Standards for Grading Assignments

As indicated below, “C” or 2.0 level work is considered average. **Leaders are not average people.** You are therefore expected (required) to put forth the effort necessary to demonstrate at least “B” (3.0) level work or higher on all assignments which you submit. Any which do not will be returned to you with input from your instructor on how you can raise your grade to the expected level. **A course grade will not be given until your assignments demonstrate that you have understood the material presented in the course and allowed your life to be transformed by the Spirit and the Word studied** — the requirements for attaining a “B”.

Your individual assignments (notebooks, tests, reports) will be graded according to the following standards. These grades will be averaged together to determine your course grade. Remember, we are training leaders and leaders are above-average people. Your work will reflect that.

- “D”
  - Indicates barely passing work that is inferior to the average both in quantity and in quality.
  - Manifests a lack of initiative or sense of responsibility or both.
- “C”
  - Average work; either steady work of an acceptable quality, or work of a high quality which is uneven, irregular or fragmentary.
  - May be mechanically or outwardly correct but shows little reflection upon or personal assimilation of the material.
- “B”
  - Intelligently has fulfilled the requirements of this course.
  - Understands the subject matter presented and has applied it to his life in a limited manner but has not really made the truths his own.
- “A”
  - Grasped the material with thoroughness, industry and correctness of detail.
  - Made the material his own by thinking about it and integrating it, using originality, natural ability, and insight.

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# Lesson One

## **Assignment to be completed:**

Listen to or watch teaching Session One, taking notes in the Workbook. Complete the related exercises below.

Read the Foreword, Preface, Introduction and Chapter 1 of Hearing God Through Biblical Meditation. Complete all Reflect and Daily Scripture Meditation questions. Use two-way journaling whenever appropriate.

## **Assignment to be submitted to your instructor:**

Chapter 1: “Reflect” question on the difference between reading the Bible and having a living relationship with the subject.

Memorize John 16:13, 14 – When He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take from what is Mine and will disclose it to you.

Complete and correct Self-Test.

## **Subjects to be explored:**

What Is Truth?

Access Spiritual Realities

## **Related objectives:**

- You will quote John 16:13, 14.
- You will discuss the meaning of the statement: “Truth is not a what but a Who.”
- You will seek Truth not in information but in revelation.
- You will discuss the difference between western “study” and bibli-

cal “meditation.”

- You will discuss what the Bible teaches about “study.”
- You will discuss the meaning of biblical meditation and state a summary definition.
- You will state and use the four keys to hearing God’s voice.
- You will state and use the five tests to affirm that you are hearing God’s voice.

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## Exercises

1. In your own words, discuss the meaning of the statement “Truth is not a what but a Who.”
2. Discuss the differences between the western understanding of “study” and biblical “meditation.”

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# Self-Test

1. Quote John 16:13, 14.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Select all of the following that are involved in Truth:
  - ☐ Personal revelation from God
  - ☐ Detached information
  - ☐ Living out the revelation received
  - ☐ The power and anointing of the Holy Spirit
  
3. Select all the statements that are true about the western world's understanding of study:
  - ☐ It is primarily a left-brain activity.
  - ☐ Imagination is an important aspect of it.
  - ☐ It is limited to man's use of his rational abilities.
  - ☐ It is focused on memorization and reason.
  
4. The Bible has many verses encouraging us to study God's word.
  - ☐ True
  - ☐ False



5. The Greek word translated “study” in the King James Version of 2 Timothy 2:15 (Study to show yourself approved unto God) is most accurately translated \_\_\_\_\_.
6. State the four keys questions to hearing God’s voice.
7. Complete the five ways you can be sure that what you are hearing is actually coming from God.
- Test the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Compare it to \_\_\_\_\_ principles.
- Compare it to the \_\_\_\_\_ as revealed in the Bible.
- Test the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Share it with your \_\_\_\_\_.

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# Answers to Self-Test

1. John 16:13, 14

When He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take from what is Mine and will disclose it to you.

2. Select all of the following that are involved in Truth:

- ☒ Personal revelation from God
- ☐ Detached information
- ☒ Living out the revelation received
- ☒ The power and anointing of the Holy Spirit

3. Select all the statements that are true about the western world's understanding of study:

- ☒ It is primarily a left-brain activity.
- ☐ Imagination is an important aspect of it.
- ☒ It is limited to man's use of his rational abilities.
- ☒ It is focused on memorization and reason.

4. The Bible has many verses encouraging us to study God's word.

- ☐ True
- ☒ False

5. The Greek word translated "study" in the King James Version of 2 Timothy 2:15 (Study to show yourself approved unto God) is most accurately translated be diligent.

6. State the four keys questions to hearing God's voice.

- 1) Quiet yourself down.
- 2) Fix your eyes on Jesus.
- 3) Tune to spontaneity.
- 4) Write.

7. Complete the five ways you can be sure that what you are hearing is actually coming from God.

Test the fruit. *(can be in either order with below answer)*

Compare it to biblical principles.

Compare it to the Names and character of God as revealed in the Bible.

Test the origin. *(can be in either order with above answer)*

Share it with your spiritual counselors.