

I. A clever deceiver: Simon the sorcerer

A. He had a wrong view of self

1. He was full of pride

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of God.” (Matthew 5:3)

2. He liked people to believe he had divine power

3. He practiced evil sorcery

B. He had a wrong view of salvation

1. His faith was misplaced

2. His baptism was an empty ritual

“The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away.” (Matthew 13:24-25)

C. He had a wrong view of the Holy Spirit

1. He thought the Holy Spirit was just a power

2. He thought the Holy Spirit could be bought

3. He thought the Holy Spirit could be controlled

D. He had a wrong view of sin

1. He did not repent of his sin

“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.” (Acts 3:19)

2. He did not receive God’s forgiveness

II. A sincere seeker: An Ethiopian Official

A. God seeks those who are lost

“Then Jesus told them this parable: ‘Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?’” (Luke 15:4)

B. God sends his witnesses out to share with the lost

“We are therefore God’s ambassadors, as though God was making his appeal through us.” (2 Corinthians 5:20)

C. God uses witnesses who will obey the Holy Spirit

D. God uses his Word to draw people to Jesus

“You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me.” (John 5:39)

E. God uses witnesses who will talk about Jesus

F. God uses obedient Christians to explain the gospel

“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” (I Peter 3:15)

G. God saves all who will repent and believe in Jesus