

## The Threat of Toxic Waste!

\*\*\* Genesis 2:15-18 "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. <sup>[16]</sup> And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; <sup>[17]</sup> but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die." <sup>[18]</sup> The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." [New International Version]

\*\*\* Genesis 3:1-6 "Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.' " "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it." [NIV]

### Satan's trick – A little truth + a little lie = Spiritual Toxic Waste!

\*\*\* 2 Cor. 11:14-15a "And no wonder! Satan does it all the time, dressing up as a beautiful angel of light. <sup>[16]</sup> So it shouldn't surprise us when his servants masquerade as servants of God." [Message Bible]

\*\*\* Matthew 13:24-26 "Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. <sup>[25]</sup> But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. <sup>[26]</sup> When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared." [NIV]

\*\*\* Matthew 13:27-43 "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?' " "An enemy did this," he replied. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' " 'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.' "[NIV]

\*\*\* Matthew 13:37-39 "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. <sup>[38]</sup> The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, <sup>[39]</sup> and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels." [NIV]

□ The Farmer = Jesus! □ The Field = Us!

□ The Good Seed = Followers of Christ!

□ The Enemy = Satan! □ The Harvest = Judgment Day!

\*\*\* Matthew 13:40-42 "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. <sup>[41]</sup> The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. <sup>[42]</sup> They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>[43]</sup> Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear." [NIV]

There is a spiritual battle going on between truth and untruth – and Satan isn't playing fair!

Satan's goal – you're deception and destruction!

\*\*\* Col. 2:4, 8 "I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ." [NIV]

\*\*\* 2 John 1:7-9a "Many deceivers have gone out into the world. They do not believe that Jesus Christ came to earth in a real body. Such a person is a deceiver and an antichrist. <sup>[8]</sup> Watch out, so that you do not lose the prize for which we have been working so hard. Be diligent so that you will receive your full reward. <sup>[9]</sup> For if you wander beyond the teaching of Christ, you will not have fellowship with God." [NLT]

\*\*\* Acts 20:28-31 "And now beware...! <sup>[29]</sup> I know full well that false teachers, like vicious wolves, will come in among you after I leave, not sparing the flock. <sup>[30]</sup> Even some of you will distort the truth in order to draw a following. <sup>[31]</sup> Watch out..." [New Living Translation]

If you don't know where you stand, you can fall for anything!

\*\*\* 2 Tim. 4:3-5a "For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to right teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever they want to hear. <sup>[4]</sup> They will reject the truth and follow strange myths. <sup>[5]</sup> But you should keep a clear mind in every situation." [NLT]