THE QUESTION

What does Romans 16:18 mean by "deceive the hearts of the simple"?

Asked by a THF member on June 8, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 12 numbered quotations · the 48 early Christian passages and 253 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-does-romans-16-18-mean-by-deceive-the-hearts-of-the-simple

The short answer *Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words*

It means using smooth, pleasing words to lead trusting believers away from the faith they were taught. Early writers warn that false teachers often look holy and speak well while seeking their own gain. They tell Christians to stay innocent of evil, yet test every teacher by his teaching and his fruit.

LIBRARY ONLY	This study was written only from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed at the back, with a link to read it.
HOW IT WAS MADE	Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.
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POINT 1 OF 8

Deceivers win the simple with pleasing words

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Irenaeus describes false teachers who use attractive, believable words to draw inexperienced believers into their system. He says such people cannot yet tell falsehood from truth, so they are led into ruin.

1 “With attractive and plausible words, they cunningly entice the simple-minded to explore their system, but in doing so, they clumsily lead them into destruction while initiating them into blasphemous and impious opinions about the Demiurge.”

later in the same passage

“These simple-minded individuals are unable to distinguish falsehood from truth.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book I* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 18, page 7** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 8

Fine speech can cover up falsehood

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Clement of Alexandria warns that false words can be spoken beautifully. He also says the cleverest deceivers know they understand nothing, yet still hide the truth behind persuasive arguments.

2 “My son, false words can be spoken well, and the truth can be overcome by beautiful language.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Stromata* 1.8 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 23, page 7** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

3 “But those who deceive the people who come to them are very clever. They know that they understand nothing, yet they still obscure the truth with persuasive arguments.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Stromata* 7.15 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 24, page 7** Read it in the library ›

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POINT 3 OF 8

Deceivers often serve their own gain

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Cyprian uses the very words of Romans 16:18 while describing a church grown greedy. Lactantius says some who split the church only pretended to worship God while chasing wealth and honor.

4 “Cunning tricks were used to deceive the hearts of the simple, and subtle schemes were used to outwit the brothers.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 33, page 8 Read it in the library ›

5 “But those whose faith was unsettled, while pretending that they knew and worshiped God, aimed at increasing their wealth and honor, and sought the highest priestly power.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Lactantius,** *Divine Institutes* 30 (c. 290–320 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 42, page 9 Read it in the library ›

POINT 4 OF 8

The careless and simple are led into darkness

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Lactantius says those who forgot God's commands made crooked paths for themselves. Along those paths they led the careless and simple part of the people away from the heavenly road.

6 “For many, forgetting them and leaving the heavenly road, have made crooked paths for themselves among twists and cliffs. By these paths they could lead the careless and simple part of the people into the darkness of death.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Lactantius,** *Divine Institutes* 30 (c. 290–320 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 42, page 9 Read it in the library ›

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POINT 5 OF 8

Know teachers by their fruit

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

In Tatian's Gospel harmony, Jesus warns of false prophets who look like sheep but are wolves, and says they are known by their fruit. The Didache adds that a teacher who turns to another doctrine should not be heard.

7 “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. But by their fruits you will know them.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tatian,** *Diatessaron* 10 (c. 150–180 AD) **Source 15, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

8 “But if the teacher himself turns away and teaches another doctrine that destroys this teaching, do not listen to him.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Didache,** *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 11 (c. 50–120 AD) **Source 1, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 8

Holy looks do not prove sound teaching

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Ignatius warns that a teacher who goes beyond what was commanded is a wolf, even if he fasts, lives strictly, works miracles or prophesies. Outward holiness is not the test; faithfulness to the teaching is.

9 “Anyone who teaches anything beyond what is commanded, even if he is considered trustworthy, even if he is accustomed to fasting, even if he lives in self-restraint, even if he works miracles, even if he has the gift of prophecy, let him be seen by you as a wolf in sheep's clothing, working for the destruction of the sheep.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Ignatius of Antioch,** *Epistles of Ignatius* (c. 98–117 AD) **Source 9, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

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POINT 7 OF 8

Examine teachers before receiving them

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The Didache tells believers not to let anyone lead them away from the teaching. The Apostolic Constitutions says to examine a visiting teacher first, since believers can tell false teachers from true ones.

10 “See that no one leads you astray from this way of the Teaching, since apart from God it teaches you.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Didache,** *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 6 (c. 50–120 AD) **Source 3, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

11 “But whoever comes to you, let him first be examined, and then received. For you have understanding and are able to know the right hand from the left, and to distinguish false teachers from true teachers.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD) **Source 39, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 8 OF 8

Good simplicity means innocence, not gullibility

Our note · compiled by machine learning · Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words

Hermas urges believers to be simple and sincere like children who do not know wickedness. Read with the warnings above, this kind of simplicity is innocence toward evil, joined to care about who is teaching.

12 “Be simple and sincere, and you will be like children who do not know the wickedness that destroys human life.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hermas,** *Shepherd* (c. 90–150 AD) **Source 4, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

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THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- None of these passages gives a line-by-line explanation of Romans 16:17–18.
- They do not name one checklist for spotting every false teacher; they give several marks instead.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 48 early Christian passages and 253 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–48, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 49–171, in Bible order), then 130 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF’s updated English unless marked “1885 English” (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). “… [continues online]” marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *48 passages from 20 writers*

Didache, *c. 50–120 AD · sources 1–3*

1 *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 11 **Quote 8, page 4** “stay more than one day, or, if necessary, also the next day. But if he stays three days, he is a false prophet. And when the apostle leaves, let him… [continues online] **read ›**

2 *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 16 (1885 English; on point 5) prophets and corrupters shall be multiplied, and the sheep shall be turned into wolves, and love shall be turned into hate… [continues online] **read ›**

3 *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 6 (1885 English) **Quote 10, page 5** “that no one cause you to err from this way of the Teaching, since apart from God it teaches you… [continues online] **read ›**

Hermas, *c. 90–150 AD · sources 4–6*

4 *Shepherd* (1885 English) **Quote 12, page 5** “said to me, Be simple and guileless, and you will be as the children who know not the wickedness that ruins the life of men… [continues online] **read ›**

5 *Shepherd* (on point 5) I do, sir," I said. "These," he says, "are the faithful, and he who sits on the chair is a false prophet, ruining the minds of the servants of God… [continues online] **read ›**

6 *Shepherd* and to the unrighteous. Therefore, trust the righteous, but do not trust the unrighteous. For the path of righteousness is straight, but the path of unrighteousness is crooked. But walk… [continues online] **read ›**

Ignatius of Antioch, *c. 98–117 AD · sources 7–10*

7 *Epistles of Ignatius* (1885 English; on point 7) “not believe all persons, do not place confidence in all… [continues online] **read ›**

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8 *Epistle of Ignatius to the Ephesians* (1885 English; on point 7) “whom ye did not allow entrance to sow their tares, but stopped your ears that ye might not receive that error which was proclaimed by them, as being persuaded that… [continues online] **read ›**

9 *Epistles of Ignatius* (1885 English) **Quote 9, page 4** “one that teaches anything beyond what is commanded, though he be [deemed] worthy of credit, though he be in the habit of fasting, though he live in continence, though he… [continues online] **read ›**

10 *Epistle of Ignatius to the Ephesians* (on point 7) “him not lead you away captive from the life… [continues online] **read ›**

Polycarp, *c. 100–155 AD · source 11*

11 *Epistle to the Philippians* (1885 English; on point 3) those who in hypocrisy bear the name of the Lord, and draw away vain men into error… [continues online] **read ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · sources 12–14*

12 *Dialogue with Trypho* (on point 5) “that many false prophets and false Christs would appear in His name and deceive many—and… [continues online] **read ›**

13 *Dialogue with Trypho* (1885 English; on point 4) “my people, they who call you blessed cause you to err, and disorder the way of your paths… [continues online] **read ›**

14 *Dialogue with Trypho* (on point 5) “inwardly they are ravenous wolves.’ And, ‘There will be divisions and heresies.’ And, ‘Beware of false prophets, who will come to you dressed outwardly like sheep, but inwardly they are… [continues online] **read ›**

Tatian, *c. 150–180 AD · sources 15–16*

15 *Diatessaron* 10 (1885 English) **Quote 7, page 4** “Matthew 7:15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, while within 35 they are ravening wolves… [continues online] **read ›**

16 *Diatessaron* 41 (on point 5) “the days of the Son of man, and will not see it. Matthew 24:5a; Luke 21:8b: Take heed that no one leads you astray. Many will come in… [continues online] **read ›**

Theophilus of Antioch, *c. 169–183 AD · source 17*

17 *To Autolycus* 1 (1885 English; on point 2) “fluent tongue and an elegant style afford pleasure and such praise as vainglory delights in, to wretched men who have been corrupted in mind… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 18–21*

18 *Against Heresies: Book I* (1885 English) **Quote 1, page 2** “these simple ones are unable, even in such a matter, to distinguish falsehood from truth… [continues online] **read ›**

19 *Against Heresies: Book III* (1885 English; on point 1) “of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.” “I have not shunned,” he says, “to declare unto you all the counsel of… [continues online] **read ›**

20 *Against Heresies: Book III* (1885 English; on point 1) “For this is the subterfuge of false persons, evil seducers, and hypocrites, as they act who are from Valentinus… [continues online] **read ›**

21 *Against Heresies: Book III* (1885 English; on point 5) “is a deceiver and an antichrist. Take heed to them, that ye lose not what ye have wrought.” And again does he say in the Epistle: “Many false prophets are… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 22–25*

22 *Stromata* 3 (on point 8) “that is in Christ." 2 Corinthians 11:3 It is also clear that the Lord came for those who had gone astray. Matthew 18:11-12 But they did not… [continues online] **read ›**

23 *Stromata* 1.8 (1885 English) **Quote 2, page 2** “son, false words can be well spoken, And truth may be vanquished by beauty of words… [continues online] **read ›**

24 *Stromata* 7.15 **Quote 3, page 2** among those who turn away from the truth, some try to deceive only themselves, and some also deceive their neighbors. Those who are called wise in their own opinions think… [continues online] **read ›**

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25 *Stromata* 5.9 (1885 English; on point 2) “win the flowers of fair renown from men, Be not induced to speak anything more than right… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 26–28*

26 *On Prescription Against Heretics* 4 (1885 English; on point 6) “7:15 Now, what are these sheep's clothing's, but the external surface of the Christian profession… [continues online] **read ›**

27 *On Prescription Against Heretics* 7 (on point 8) “between heretics and Christians? Our instruction comes from the porch of Solomon, who had himself taught that the Lord should be sought in simplicity of heart… [continues online] **read ›**

28 *Against the Valentinians* 2 (on point 8) this reason, they label us as simple, and only simple, not wise also. But wisdom does not have to be missing from simplicity. The Lord joins both together: "Therefore be… [continues online] **read ›**

Caius, *c. 200–220 AD · source 29*

29 *Fragments* 1 They have boldly falsified the sacred Scriptures, rejected the rules of the ancient faith, and ignored Christ. They do not ask what the sacred Scriptures say. Instead, they work hard… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · source 30*

30 *Against Celsus* 55 (1885 English; on point 3) “how many others are there who practise such juggling tricks, in order to deceive their simple hearers, and who make gain by their deception?— as was the case, they say… [continues online] **read ›**

Gregory Thaumaturgus, *c. 240–270 AD · source 31*

31 *Oration to Origen* 1 (on point 2) he gives himself over to the arguments that first take hold of him. And such arguments mislead those who accept them, not only in other matters, but above all in… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 32–35*

32 *Treatises* (on point 5) “him. For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, to lead into error, if possible, even the elect. But take heed. Behold, I… [continues online] **read ›**

33 *Treatises* (1885 English) **Quote 4, page 3** “hair was stained with a falsehood. Crafty frauds were used to deceive the hearts of the simple, subtle meanings for circumventing the brethren… [continues online] **read ›**

34 *Epistles* (on point 7) and says, "Do not listen to the words of the false prophets, for the visions of their own hearts deceive them. They speak, but not from the mouth of the… [continues online] **read ›**

35 *Treatises* (1885 English) “by false promises, and linked with apostates and unbelievers, they take hold of error instead of truth: they regard a communion as valid with those who are not communicants… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 36–39*

36 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 5) “the ones about whom the Lord declared His mind with bitterness and severity, saying that they are false Christs and false teachers. Matthew 24:24 They have blasphemed the Spirit… [continues online] **read ›**

37 *Apostolic Constitutions* the judgment. The trumpet is the holy Gospel. The watchman is the bishop, who is appointed in the Church and is required by his preaching to testify and strongly warn… [continues online] **read ›**

38 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 5) “false Christs and false prophets shall arise and shall deceive many… [continues online] **read ›**

39 *Apostolic Constitutions* **Quote 11, page 5** For you have understanding and are able to know the right hand from the left, and to distinguish false teachers from true teachers. But when a teacher comes to you… [continues online] **read ›**

Archelaus, *c. 270–300 AD · source 40*

40 *Disputation with Manes* 1 (on point 5) “Matthew is also careful to note these words of our Lord Jesus Christ: "Take heed that no man deceive you, for many shall come in my name, saying, I am… [continues online] **read ›**

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Lactantius, *c. 290–320 AD · sources 41–43*

41 *Divine Institutes* 2 (1885 English; on point 1) “not to permit that inexperienced men should be enticed by the frauds of any, lest their simplicity should be a prey and sustenance to crafty men… [continues online] **read ›**

42 *Divine Institutes* 30 (1885 English) **Quotes 5, 6, page 3** “they whose faith was unsettled, when they pretended that they knew and worshipped God, aiming at the increase of their wealth and honour, aspired to the highest sacerdotal power… [continues online] **read ›**

43 *Divine Institutes* 3 (1885 English) “if he shall not meet with a teacher of temperance, that he falls into the way on the left hand, which assumes the appearance of the better — that is, he… [continues online] **read ›**

Peter of Alexandria, *c. 300–311 AD · source 44*

44 *Canonical Epistle* (1885 English) “prudent who skilfully take counsel, deceive foolish children… [continues online] **read ›**

Alexander of Alexandria, *c. 313–328 AD · sources 45–46*

45 *Epistles on the Arian Heresy* 1 (1885 English; on point 7) “therefore, who have been anathematized by the brotherhood, let no one of you receive, nor admit of those things which are either said or written by them… [continues online] **read ›**

46 *Epistles on the Arian Heresy* 1 (1885 English; on point 2) “to employ letters composed and dressed out with lies, which are able to deceive a man who is intent upon a simple and sincere faith… [continues online] **read ›**

Anonymous · *sources 47–48*

47 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 (on point 1) “is not right with God” (Acts 8:20-21). Men like these do all these things because they want to deceive those who are more simple or more curious. Some… [continues online] **read ›**

48 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 (1885 English; on point 5) whom the Lord says, Take heed that no man lead you into error. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ, and shall lead many into error… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *123 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

49 **Numbers 32:7** Why do you pervert the minds of the children of Israel, so that they do not cross over into the land that the Lord is giving them? **read ›**

50 **Deuteronomy 11:16** be careful lest your heart be puffed up, and you transgress and serve other gods and worship them, **read ›**

51 **Proverbs 1:11** If they urge you, saying, “Come with us, share in blood, and let us unjustly hide a righteous man in the earth, **read ›**

52 **Proverbs 1:30** nor would they attend to my counsels, but they mocked my rebukes. **read ›**

53 **Proverbs 1:32** For since they wronged the simple, they will be slain, and inquiry will destroy the ungodly. **read ›**

54 **Proverbs 2:13** O you who forsake straight ways to walk in ways of darkness, **read ›**

55 **Proverbs 2:15** whose paths are crooked and whose tracks are winding, **read ›**

56 **Proverbs 5:6** For she does not go upon the ways of life; her tracks are slippery and not easily known. **read ›**

57 **Proverbs 7:7** whomever she sees among the foolish children, a young man lacking understanding, **read ›**

58 **Proverbs 7:25** Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways. **read ›**

59 **Proverbs 8:5** Understand shrewdness, you guileless ones, and you who are untaught, gain understanding. **read ›**

60 **Proverbs 8:6** Listen to me, for I will speak noble things, and bring forth right things from my lips. **read ›**

61 **Proverbs 8:8** All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; there is nothing crooked or twisted in them. **read ›**

62 **Proverbs 9:16** “Whoever of you is most foolish, let him turn aside to me.” And I urge those who lack sound judgment, saying, **read ›**

63 **Proverbs 10:17** Instruction guards the right ways of life, but instruction that is not corrected goes astray. **read ›**

64 **Proverbs 12:20** Deceit is in the heart of him who devises evil, but those who desire peace will be glad. **read ›**

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65 **Proverbs 12:26** A righteous man who judges well will be his own friend, but evils will pursue sinners, and the way of the ungodly will lead them astray. **read ›**

66 **Proverbs 16:13** Righteous lips are acceptable to a king, and he loves right words. **read ›**

67 **Proverbs 16:21** The wise and understanding they call worthless, but those who are sweet in speech will hear more. **read ›**

68 **Proverbs 16:23** The heart of the wise will understand what comes from his own mouth, and on his lips he will carry good judgment. **read ›**

69 **Proverbs 16:24** Good words are honeycombs, and their sweetness is healing for the soul. **read ›**

70 **Proverbs 17:7** Faithful lips will not suit a fool, nor lying lips a righteous man. **read ›**

71 **Proverbs 25:11** Like a golden apple in a necklace of sardius, so it is to speak a word. **read ›**

72 **Proverbs 26:19** so are all who lie in wait for their own friends, and when they are seen, they say, “I did it in jest.” **read ›**

73 **Proverbs 28:10** Whoever leads the upright astray in an evil way will himself fall into corruption; and the lawless will pass by good things, but will not enter into them. **read ›**

74 **Song of Solomon 3:5** I have charged you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the powers and by the strengths of the field, that you not stir up or awaken love until it pleases. **read ›**

75 **Isaiah 9:16** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

76 **Isaiah 44:20** Know that their heart is ashes, and they go astray, and no one can deliver his soul. See, you will not say, “There is a lie in my right hand.” **read ›**

77 **Jeremiah 5:10** Go up upon her battlements and tear them down, but do not make a full end; leave her supports, for they are the Lord’s. **read ›**

78 **Jeremiah 11:3** and you shall say to them: Thus says the Lord God of Israel: Cursed is the man who will not listen to the words of this covenant, **read ›**

79 **Jeremiah 16:5** Thus says the Lord: Do not enter their mourning feast, and do not go to lament, and do not mourn for them; for I have removed my peace from this people. **read ›**

80 **Ezekiel 18:18** But as for his father, if he oppresses with oppression and seizes plunder, he has done what is contrary in the midst of my people, and he shall die in his unrighteousness. **read ›**

81 **Ezekiel 32:11** For thus says the Lord God: The sword of the king of Babylon shall come upon you **read ›**

82 **Ezekiel 36:4** therefore, O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord: Thus says the Lord to the mountains and to the hills, and to the brooks and to the ravines, and to the places laid waste and destroyed, and to the cities that have been forsaken, which have become a prey and a trampling for the rest of the nations around; **read ›**

83 **Daniel 1:4** young men in whom there was no blemish, handsome in appearance, skilled in all wisdom, having knowledge, discerning with insight, and having strength to stand in the house before the king; and he was to teach them the letters and language of the Chaldeans. **read ›**

84 **Daniel 1:10** And the chief eunuch said to Daniel, “I fear my lord the king, who appointed your food and your drink, lest he see your faces sadder than those of the young men of your own age, and so you would bring my head under condemnation before the king.” **read ›**

85 **Daniel 1:15** And at the end of the ten days their appearance looked better and stronger in flesh than that of the young men who ate at the king’s table. **read ›**

86 **Daniel 2:13** And the decree went out, and the wise men were being killed; and they sought Daniel and his friends to put them to death. **read ›**

87 **Daniel 2:15** “Officer of the king, why has this harsh decree gone out from the presence of the king?” Then Arioch made the matter known to Daniel. **read ›**

88 **Daniel 2:16** And Daniel asked the king to give him time, so that he might declare its interpretation to the king. **read ›**

89 **Daniel 4:27** Therefore, O king, let my counsel please you: redeem your sins by acts of mercy, and your unrighteous deeds by compassion to the poor; perhaps God will be long-suffering toward your trespasses.” **read ›**

90 **Daniel 5:5** In that very hour the fingers of a man’s hand came out and wrote opposite the lamp on the plaster of the wall of the king’s house; and the king was watching the knuckles of the hand that was writing. **read ›**

91 **Daniel 8:5** And I was considering, and behold, a male goat came from the southwest over the face of the whole earth, and it was not touching the ground; and the goat had a horn between its eyes. **read ›**

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92 **Daniel 8:6** And the male goat came to the ram that had the horns, which I had seen standing before the Oubal, and it ran at it in the fury of its strength. **read ›**

93 **Daniel 12:6** And one said to the man clothed in the baddin, who was above the water of the river, “How long until the end of the marvels you have spoken of?” **read ›**

94 **Hosea 10:12** Sow for yourselves for righteousness; gather in for the fruit of life; light for yourselves the light of knowledge; seek the Lord until the fruits of righteousness come to you. **read ›**

95 **Amos 1:1** The words of Amos, which came in Accarim in Tekoa, which he saw concerning Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah king of Judah and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel, two years before the earthquake. **read ›**

96 **Amos 1:5** And I will break the bars of Damascus, and utterly destroy the inhabitants from the plain of On, and cut off a tribe from the men of Haran; and the select people of Syria shall be taken captive, says the Lord. **read ›**

97 **Amos 4:12** Therefore I will do this to you, O Israel; but because I will do this to you, prepare to call upon your God, O Israel. **read ›**

98 **Micah 6:3** O my people, what have I done to you? Or how have I grieved you? Or how have I troubled you? Answer me. **read ›**

99 **Wisdom of Solomon 1:1** Love righteousness, you who judge the earth; think of the Lord in goodness, and seek him in sincerity of heart. **read ›**

100 **Wisdom of Solomon 1:5** For the holy Spirit of discipline will flee from deceit, and will withdraw from foolish thoughts, and will be rebuked when unrighteousness comes in. **read ›**

101 **Wisdom of Solomon 2:21** They reasoned these things, and were led astray, for their wickedness blinded them, **read ›**

102 **Wisdom of Solomon 4:12** For the evil eye of worthlessness obscures what is good, and the roving of desire perverts an innocent mind. **read ›**

103 **Wisdom of Solomon 10:10** When a righteous man fled from his brother’s anger, she guided him in straight paths; she showed him the kingdom of God, and gave him knowledge of holy things; she prospered him in his toils, and multiplied his labors. **read ›**

104 **Wisdom of Solomon 12:24** For they wandered far beyond the ways of error, taking as gods creatures despised even among their enemies’ animals, deceived like foolish infants. **read ›**

105 **Wisdom of Solomon 15:5** whose sight comes to fools as a disgrace, and they long for the breathless form of a dead image. **read ›**

106 **Wisdom of Sirach 3:24** For their own assumption has led many astray, and evil suspicion has made their minds slip. **read ›**

107 **Wisdom of Sirach 4:24** For wisdom will be known by speech, and instruction by the word of the tongue. **read ›**

108 **Wisdom of Sirach 9:17** By the hand of craftsmen a work will be praised, and the leader of a people will be praised as wise in his speech. **read ›**

109 **Wisdom of Sirach 11:29** Do not bring every man into your house, for the ambushes of the deceitful are many. **read ›**

110 **Wisdom of Sirach 13:6** He has need of you; he will deceive you, and smile at you and give you hope; he will speak pleasant words to you and say, ‘What do you need?’ **read ›**

111 **Wisdom of Sirach 13:8** Take care not to be led astray, and not to be humbled in your gladness. **read ›**

112 **Wisdom of Sirach 18:15** My child, do not mix blame with your good deeds, nor sorrow of words with any gift. **read ›**

113 **Wisdom of Sirach 18:16** Will not the dew relieve the scorching heat? So a word is better than a gift. **read ›**

114 **Wisdom of Sirach 18:17** Behold, is not a word better than a good gift? And both are found with a gracious man. **read ›**

115 **Wisdom of Sirach 20:13** The wise man makes himself beloved by his word, but the favors of fools will be poured out. **read ›**

116 **Wisdom of Sirach 20:27** The wise man will advance himself by his words, and a man of sound judgment will please nobles. **read ›**

117 **Wisdom of Sirach 21:10** The way of sinners is made smooth with stones, but at its end is the pit of Hades. **read ›**

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118 **Wisdom of Sirach 21:19** Instruction is shackles on the feet of the foolish, and like manacles on the right hand. **read ›**

119 **Wisdom of Sirach 21:26** The heart of fools is in their mouth, but the heart of the wise is their mouth. **read ›**

120 **Wisdom of Sirach 23:8** The sinner will be left behind, and the abusive man and the proud will stumble by them. **read ›**

121 **Wisdom of Sirach 27:7** Do not praise a man before he reasons, for this is the testing of men. **read ›**

122 **Wisdom of Sirach 27:20** Do not pursue him, for he has gone far away, and has escaped like a gazelle from a trap. **read ›**

123 **Wisdom of Sirach 27:23** Before your eyes he will make your mouth sweet, and he will marvel at your words; but afterward he will twist his mouth, and set a stumbling block in your words. **read ›**

124 **Wisdom of Sirach 28:25** and for your words make a balance and a weight, and for your mouth make a door and a bar. **read ›**

125 **Wisdom of Sirach 31:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

126 **Wisdom of Sirach 34:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

127 **Wisdom of Sirach 34:23** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

128 **Wisdom of Sirach 35:20** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

129 **Wisdom of Sirach 36:5** The inward parts of a fool are like a cart wheel, and his reasoning like a turning axle. **read ›**

130 **Wisdom of Sirach 36:24** He who acquires a wife begins a possession, a helper suited to him and a pillar of rest. (Septuagint Wisdom of Sirach 36:29 (Wisdom of Sirach 36:24 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

131 **1 Maccabees 1:11** In those days lawless sons came out of Israel and persuaded many, saying, “Let us go and make a covenant with the nations around us, for since we separated from them many evils have come upon us.” **read ›**

132 **1 Maccabees 1:30** He spoke words of peace to them in deceit, and they trusted him; then he fell upon the city suddenly and struck it a heavy blow, and destroyed many people of Israel. **read ›**

133 **2 Maccabees 6:29** Those who were leading him changed the goodwill they had shown him a little before into ill will, because the words he had just spoken were, as they thought, madness. **read ›**

134 **2 Maccabees 15:10** And when he had roused their spirits, he gave his orders, at the same time pointing out the faithlessness of the nations and their breaking of oaths. **read ›**

135 **2 Maccabees 15:11** He armed each of them not so much with the security of shields and spears as with the encouragement of good words; and besides, he related a dream worthy of belief, a kind of waking vision, which gladdened them all. **read ›**

136 **3 Maccabees 3:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

137 **4 Maccabees 6:17** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

138 **1 Enoch 69:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

139 **1 Enoch 82:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

140 **1 Enoch 94:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

141 **1 Enoch 94:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

142 **1 Enoch 98:9** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

143 **1 Enoch 99:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

144 **1 Enoch 104:10** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

145 **Matthew 7:15** Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. **read ›**

146 **Matthew 24:4** Jesus answered them, “Be careful that no one leads you astray. **read ›**

147 **Matthew 24:11** Many false prophets will arise and will lead many astray. **read ›**

148 **Mark 13:5** Jesus, answering, began to tell them, “Be careful that no one leads you astray. **read ›**

149 **John 2:8** He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the ruler of the feast.” So they took it. **read ›**

150 **Acts 3:12** When Peter saw this, he answered the people, “Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Why do you stare at us as though by our own power or godliness we had made him walk? **read ›**

151 **Acts 5:21** When they heard this, they entered into the temple about daybreak and taught. But the high priest and those who were with him came and called the council together, with all the senate of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. **read ›**

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152 **Acts 9:14** Here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." **read ›**

153 **Acts 9:15** But the Lord said to him, "Go your way, for he is my chosen vessel to bear my name before the nations and kings, and the children of Israel. **read ›**

154 **Acts 20:30** Men will arise from among your own selves, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. **read ›**

155 **Romans 6:13** Also, do not present your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. **read ›**

156 **Romans 6:16** Do you not know that when you present yourselves as slaves and obey someone, you are the slaves of whomever you obey, whether of sin to death, or of obedience to righteousness? **read ›**

157 **Romans 7:4** Therefore, my brothers, you also were made dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you would be joined to another, to him who was raised from the dead, that we might produce fruit to God. **read ›**

158 **Romans 7:8** But sin, finding occasion through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of coveting. For apart from the law, sin is dead. **read ›**

159 **Romans 16:18** For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the innocent. **read ›**

160 **2 Corinthians 11:3** But I fear that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your minds may somehow be corrupted and led away from simplicity toward Christ. **read ›**

161 **Ephesians 4:14** so that we may no longer be children, tossed by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching, by human trickery and craftiness in deceitful schemes, **read ›**

162 **Colossians 2:4** Now I say this so that no one may deceive you with persuasive speech. **read ›**

163 **Colossians 2:8** Be careful that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elements of the world, and not according to Christ. **read ›**

164 **1 Timothy 4:1** But the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith, paying attention to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, **read ›**

165 **2 Timothy 3:13** But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. **read ›**

166 **Titus 2:8** and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us. **read ›**

167 **Hebrews 13:9** Do not be carried away by various and strange teachings, for it is good that the heart be established by grace, not by foods, through which those who were so occupied were not benefited. **read ›**

168 **2 Peter 2:1** But false prophets also arose among the people, as false teachers will also be among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, denying even the Master who bought them, bringing on themselves swift destruction. **read ›**

169 **2 Peter 2:2** And many will follow their licentious ways, because of whom the way of truth will be maligned. **read ›**

170 **2 Peter 2:15** Having left the straight way, they went astray, following the way of Balaam son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; **read ›**

171 **1 John 2:26** These things I have written to you concerning those who would lead you astray. **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *130 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Genesis 1:6 · 2:7

Psalms 62:6

Proverbs 4:11 · 11:13 · 30:24

Isaiah 35:8 · 38:8

Jeremiah 23:16 · 23:21 · 24:1

Ezekiel 3:17 · 13:3

Daniel 1:12 · 2:2 · 2:45 · 2:48 · 11:31 · 12:1

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Matthew 4:10 · 5:19 · 5:28 · 5:42 · 6:12 · 7:13 · 7:16 · 10:16 · 10:40 · 10:41 · 11:30 · 12:31 · 12:32 · 18:3 · 18:11 · 20:20 · 22:40 · 24:10 · 24:12 · 24:13 · 24:21 · 24:23 · 24:24 · 24:27 · 24:30 · 24:42 · 25:31

Mark 3:29 · 12:29 · 16:9

Luke 6:30 · 9:55 · 12:35 · 18:8 · 24:32

John 1:1 · 1:3 · 1:10 · 1:13 · 4:1 · 12:7 · 13:34 · 16:26 · 18:28

Acts 3:5 · 8:9 · 8:20 · 11:26 · 14:4 · 15:13 · 15:20 · 15:29 · 16:4

Romans 1:16 · 10:8 · 12:8 · 12:9 · 12:17 · 14:10 · 14:12 · 14:20 · 16:7 · 16:21 · 16:25

1 Corinthians 1:27 · 2:8 · 2:10 · 2:11 · 3:18 · 5:3 · 8:1 · 8:4 · 11:19 · 12:3 · 13:2 · 14:2 · 14:20 · 15:5 · 15:23

2 Corinthians 5:10 · 8:21 · 9:14 · 11:23

Galatians 1:6 · 1:8 · 1:19

Colossians 1:23 · 1:24 · 2:6

1 Thessalonians 2:6 · 4:17 · 5:20 · 5:21

1 Timothy 1:3 · 1:4 · 6:3

2 Timothy 2:17 · 3:4 · 4:7

Titus 3:2 · 3:9

James 2:13 · 5:14

1 Peter 4:7 · 4:12

1 John 4:1 · 4:2

3 John 1:9

Revelation 2:14 · 3:1 · 20:5

Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “What does Romans 16:18 mean by "deceive the hearts of the simple"?” on June 8, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

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