

Rebellion – Part Two

"Ye have been rebellious against the LORD from the day that I knew you." Deuteronomy 9:24

There are times when a person rebels and it is obvious he is doing so. For example, you say to your son, "Please pick up your toy." He looks you in the eye and says, "No!" Much of the time, however, only God knows when a person rebels. Often biblical writers accuse people of rebelling, as Moses does in this passage, but they have been given special insight not available to those of us who read what they say.

Because rebellion is often attitudinal, it deals with a person's motives, and you cannot know the motives of other people. For this reason, in such cases you remain unsure as to what is happening. When this happens, you should suspend judgment and pray about it, asking God to expose it at another time if your suspicion proves true.

You are easily deceived, especially when you love someone and want to think the best of him or her. For example, you have a trusted employee who has been with you for years, and one day you find a sizeable sum of money missing from your firm. You are reluctant to even suspect that he is culpable.

People who are devious, pretending that they are not rebelling, when in reality they are, have deceived themselves into believing that they need not fear God. The Bible promises that, "...God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel."¹ To think that you can deceive others without God either knowing or caring is to accrue horrific consequences in the Day of Judgment.

¹ Romans 2:16