An aerial photograph of a dirt road winding through a field. A person is walking away from the camera on the road. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Take Heed
that *No One*
Deceives You

Matthew 24:4; Mark 13:5

Matthew 24:1-5 Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. **2** And Jesus said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.” **3** Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?” **4** And Jesus answered and said to them: **“Take heed that no one deceives you.”** **5** For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.”



Mark 13:1-6 Then as He went out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, “Teacher, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here!”

2 And Jesus answered and said to him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone shall be left upon another, that shall not be thrown down.”

3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked Him privately, **4** “Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign when all these things will be fulfilled?” **5** And Jesus, answering them, began to say: “**Take heed that no one deceives you.** **6** For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am He,’ and will deceive many.”



The Great Disappointment

22 October 1844

Matthew 24:36 But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

Matthew 24:42-44 Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. **43** But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. **44** Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.



The call to take heed will:

1. sieve out the prepared/unprepared
(Matthew 25:1-13 Parable of the 10 virgins)
2. separate the true shepherds from the hired hands
(John 10:11-13)
3. Identify a very select, special force of believers
(Deuteronomy 13:3-4)



Deception



Key Aspects of



Key Escapes from

Key Aspects

1. We are all vulnerable, and most vulnerable when we think we are not.

1 Corinthians 10:12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.





Key Aspects

2. When we can't tell the counterfeit.

Matthew 24:5 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.

Key Aspects

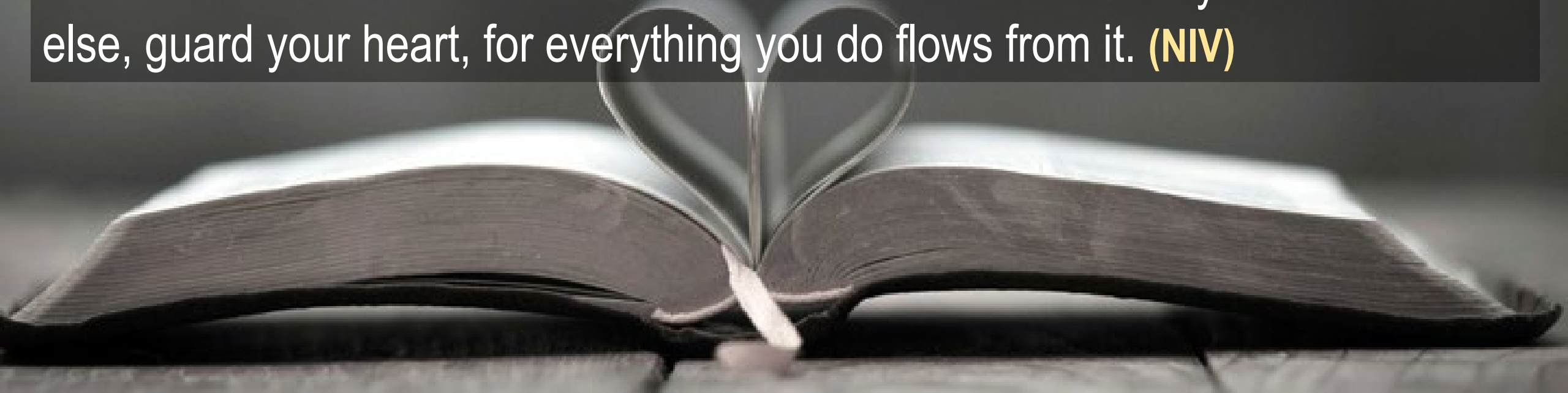
3. We are lovers of ourselves.

2 Timothy 3:1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:
2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, **3** unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, **4** traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, **5** having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! **6** For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, **7** always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Key Escapes

1. Guard our heart with all diligence.

Proverbs 4:20 My son, pay attention to what I say; turn your ear to my words. **21** Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; **22** for they are life to those who find them and health to one's whole body. **23** Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. **(NIV)**



Key Escapes

2. Keep it simple.

2 Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.



Key Escapes

3. Love and embrace the truth.

1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.



Key Escapes

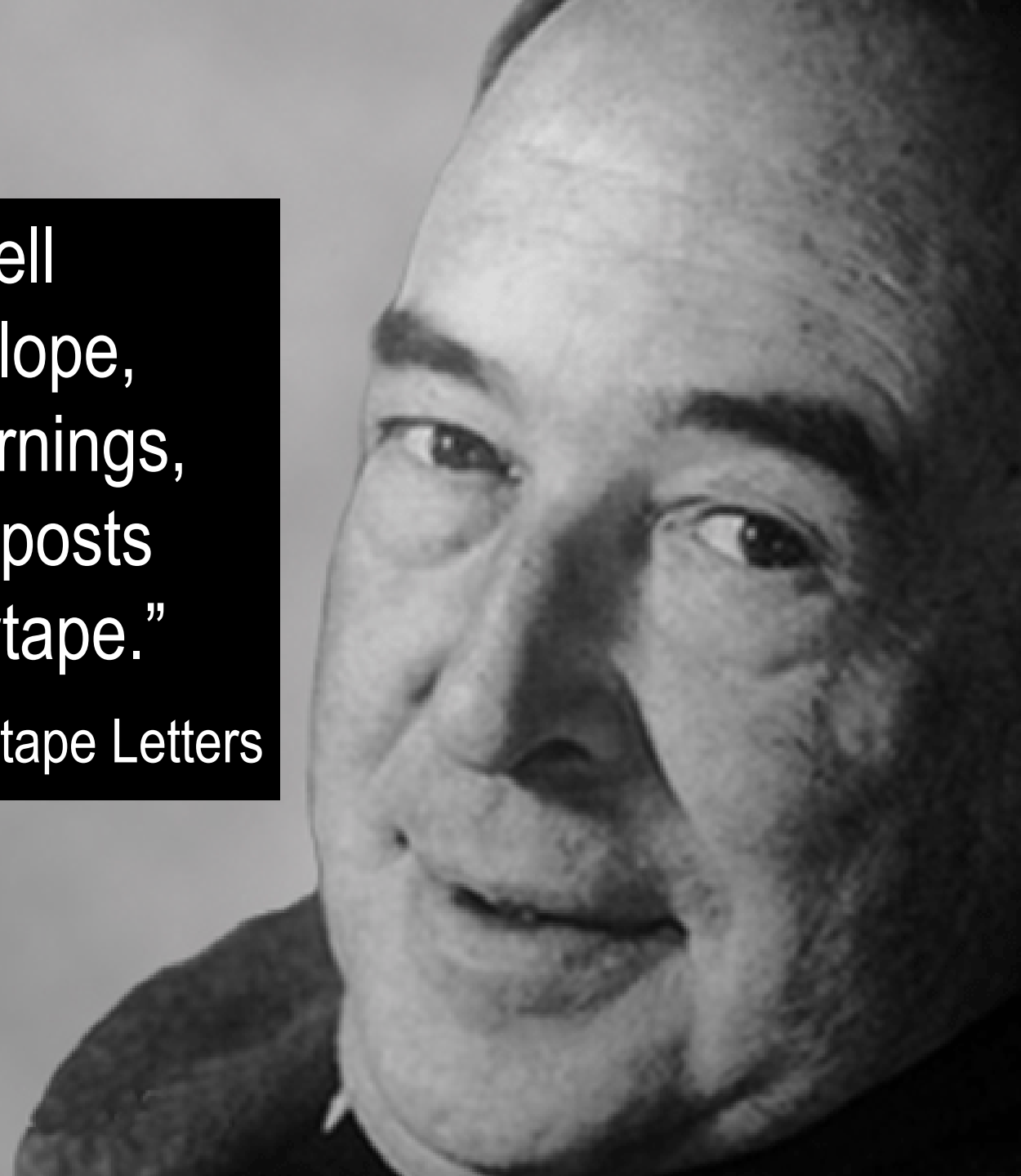
4. Keep our spiritual fervour.

Romans 12:11 not lagging in diligence,
fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.




“Indeed the safest road to Hell
is the gradual one--the gentle slope,
soft underfoot, without sudden turnings,
without milestones, without signposts
...Your affectionate uncle, Screwtape.”

C.S. Lewis, The Screwtape Letters



CONCLUSION

A man in a dark suit and white shirt is looking through black binoculars. The lenses of the binoculars show a sunset or sunrise over a body of water with silhouettes of buildings in the distance. The background is a plain, light grey color.

Vigilance, **NOT** paranoia

CONCLUSION

If so many among
the heroes of Faith
were distracted,
even deceived,
why not us?

CONCLUSION

“TAKE HEED”

by Nicholas Batzig



Consider the following: If an innocent man could choose a piece of fruit over the infinitely valuable God (Gen. 3:6); if the most righteous man of his day could get so drunk that he passed out naked before his sons in his tent (9:21); if the most faithful man of his day could father a child with his wife's handmaiden (16:1-4) and twice hand his wife over to other men (12:11-15; 20:1-2); if the mother of promise could laugh at the words of the God of promise and then lie to Him about doing so (18:9-15); if "righteous Lot" could greedily pick the most materialistic and sexually depraved place for himself and his family to live (13:8-13), and could hand his daughters over to the sexually perverse men of the city (19:4-8);

if the son of promise could show partiality to his oldest son because he liked his hunting skills (25:28),

and he, too, could hand his wife over to another man (26:6-11);

and if the namesake of Israel could swindle his brother for a birthright (25:29-34), then so could I.

If the meekest man on the planet could act in such sinful anger and unbelief that God would not let him into the Promised Land (Num. 20:7-12);

if his successor could disobediently covenant with pagans (Josh. 9);

if two of Israel's greatest judges could, in unbelief, doubt the immediate promises of God (Judg. 4; 11);

if the mighty man of valor could fall into idolatry at the end of his life (8:22-27);

and if the strongest man who ever lived could be defeated by wine and women (chaps. 14-16), then so could I.

If the man after God's own heart could commit adultery and premeditate the murder of one of his mighty men (2 Sam. 11);

if the wisest man could foolishly allow his heart to be led astray by a thousand women to worship foreign gods (1 Kings 11);

if the weeping prophet could charge God with deceiving His people (Jer. 4:10);

if his penman could seek fame for helping him write his book (45:5);

and if a prophet of Israel could self-righteously run from the mission of God (Jonah 1-3), then so could I.

If the forerunner of Christ could doubt the identity of the One to whom he bore witness (Matt. 11:2-3) and if the Apostle Peter could try to stop Jesus from going to the cross (16:21-23),

deny Jesus (Luke 22:54-61), argue with the Lord about the gospel and its implications (John 13:6–10; Acts 10:9-16),

and support division in the church over the doctrine of justification by faith alone (Gal. 2:11-21), then so could I.

If James and John could use Jesus to get to the top (Mark 10:35-37) and could want to call fire down from heaven on those who did not believe the gospel (Luke 9:51-55), and if the Apostle John could twice fall down to worship angels (Rev. 19:9-10; 22:8-9), then so could I.

CONCLUSION

KNOW His voice,
UNDERSTAND His Heart and
AWAIT His Coming again

