

1/9/00

### The Deceiver And The Deceived

#### 2 Thess. 2:9-12

In an examination at a Christian school, the teacher asked the following question: What is false doctrine?"

Up went a little boy's hand, and there came this answer: "It's when the doctor gives the wrong stuff to people who are sick." Although the little boy had obviously confused *doctrine* with *doctorin'*, he arrived at the correct definition. (Ill. Bib. Preching:113)

Paul has clearly shown the Thessalonians that the "Day of The Lord" had not come and to believe that "The Day" had come was contrary to the Scriptures.

1. There would first have to be the falling away.
2. The restrainer would have to be removed.
3. Then and only then would the man of lawlessness be revealed.

Now Paul reveals the deception of the man of lawlessness at his coming. vs. 9-12.

- I. The nature of his coming. vs. 9-10a
- II. The people of his following. vs. 10
- III. The outcome of his followers. vs. 11-12

#### **I. The nature of his coming. vs. 9-10a**

A. His presence is physical. vs. 9a

\* "The coming of the lawless one."

1. He will have his coming to the earth. just as Jesus came the first time. (could be alive today somewhere)

a. The word coming "parousia" means presence and was used for a royal visit by a ruler of Rome as manifested deity.

b. The same word is used of the physical presence of Jesus as He manifests Himself at His second return. vs. 8

2. He will be an incarnation of evil as Jesus was an incarnation of God.

a. And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.

1Tim. 3:16

\* In the fullness of time Jesus came.

Gal. 4:4

b. And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. 2Thess. 2:6

\* The Mystery of lawlessness is in contrast to the mystery of godliness, the epitome of evil.

**B. His source is Satanic. vs. 9a**

\* “According to the working of Satan”.

1. He is working in dependence of another.
  - a. The word working “energia”, means power in action.
  - b. The word energy is derived from it.
  - c. The same word but a different form is used for the fact that the mystery of lawlessness is already at work in the word, prior to his appearance. vs. 7
2. He is in partnership with Satan.
  - a. He ascends from the bottomless pit, abuso, shaft. Rev. 17:8
  - b. His working is blasphemous. Rev. 13:1
  - c. He receives his power, throne and great authority from the dragon Satan. Rev. 13:2
  - e. The beast and false prophet are cast into the lake of fire alive. Rev. 19:20
  - f. The Devil is cast in to the lake of fire, where both the beast and false prophet shall be tormented day and night forever and ever. Rev. 20:10
    - \* He is distinct from Satan and the false prophet.

**C. His credentials are supernatural. vs. 9b-d**

1. He reveals All power “dunamis” means miraculous force.

- a. Power to solve sinister schemes and world problems. Dan. 8:23
- b. Power of speech to captivate people. Dan 7:20
- c. Power to cause craft to prosper. Dan. 8:25, 11:43
  - \* But his power is not greater than God's!
2. He reveals signs “semeion” means an indication or token as evidence of supernatural authority.
  - \* The false prophet and antichrist both will do this, foretold by Christ. Matt. 24:24, Rev. 13:11-15
3. He reveals wonders “teras” means something that causes one to watch or observe and marvel and be astonished.
  - a. They that dwell on the earth shall wonder. Rev. 17:8
  - b. The false prophet is a focus of signs and wonders. Rev. 13:11-18
  - c. The word lying “psudos” refers to all three and is descriptive of their intent.
    - 1) They are steeped in falsehood, in order to seduce people from the truth.
    - 2) Jesus used the same word regarding the religious leaders, “You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer

from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a **lie**, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.” Jn. 8:44

4. These same words are used of Jesus and the apostles. Acts 2:22, Rom. 15:19, 2Cor. 12:12, Heb. 2:4

**D.** His character is deceptive. vs. 10a

\* “And with all unrighteousness deception”.

\* Jesus came with all righteous truth!

1. He will appear as a man of peace on a white horse, but war, famine, pestilence & death will follow him. Rev. 6
2. He will make a seven year covenant with Israel but break it after 3 1/2 years. Dan. 9:27
3. He will help build the temple and then use it to show himself as God in it. 2Thess. 2:4, Rev. 11:1-2
4. Jesus warned of the danger.
  - a. On the Olivet discourse He said, “For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. Matt. 24:24, Mk. 13:22
  - b. Nicodemus who came by night to Jesus made a wrong assessment regarding miracles, he said to Jesus,

“Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”. Jn. 3:2

- 1) The antichrist will not be from God but Satan and he as we can see will perform miracles.
- 2) The statement is illuminating in view that the Scriptures tell us that the nation of Israel will except the antichrist and the world.

**Illustration**

Hitler was a hero to Germany but as time moved on he revealed his true colors but the interworkings of his plan and character were at work from the beginning.

**Application**

1. The physical presence of evil in our day is overwhelming.
  - a. The authorities at large do not see the real need of mothers and fathers in the home.
  - b. Any form of supervision will do, as long as it is responsible.
  - c. The philosophy of “It takes a village to raise a child”, has been made popular by Mrs. Clinton.
    - \* The only problem is that it removes that the child grows without any absolutes or

boundaries and he or she ends up destroying the village and themselves.

2. The source is more demonic each day.
  - a. The New Age movement is in part based on demons, seeking channelers and spirit guides.
  - b. The seeking of help from paranormal agents to solve crimes.
  - c. The number of movies that depict demon activity or possession is a normal thing.
3. The character of our day is deception.
  - a. Teaching that there is nothing wrong with premarital sex, in fact the youth are facilitated by the handing out of condoms.
  - b. The AID's virus and the facts are distorted and lied about.
  - c. The homosexual lifestyle is presented as alternate and normal, to redefine the family.
    - \* The source of all this is Satanic in nature, "For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works. 2Cor. 11:13-15

***The nature of his coming is Satanic!***

## II. The people of his following. vs. 10

- A. Their spiritual state is described. vs. 10a
  - \* "Those who perish", literally who are perishing.
    1. Those who have not been born-again and are dead in trespasses and sins. Eph. 2:1
    2. Those who walk according to the course of this world, according to the presence and power of the air. Eph. 2:2a-b
    3. Those who are children of disobedience. Eph. 2:2c
      - \* The process is ongoing until one accepts Jesus, unless they receive the mark of the beast which seals their eternity.
- B. Their spiritual blindness is declared to be of their own choosing. vs. 10-b
  - \* "Because they did not receive the love of the truth".
    1. They did not welcome the truth of the gospel.
      - a. The word receive "dechomai", means to receive by deliberate and ready reception of what is offered.
        - 1) The idea is of welcoming is behind this word.
        - 2) The same word is used of being welcomed into one's house. Lk. 16:4

- 3) The word is used of the Thessalonians welcoming God's word. 1Thess. 2:13
- b. The word truth "aletheia" means the reality and genuineness of the message.
- 1) The truth of Christian doctrine, God's holiness, man's sinfulness, the need of repentance for salvation.
  - 2) Jesus used the word for His own person, "I Am the way, the **truth**: and the life, and no man comes to the Father but by Me. Jn. 14:6
2. They did not welcome the love of God.
- a. The word Love is "agape", identifying God's divine unmerited love.
  - b. The love of the Father giving His Son. Jn. 3:16
  - c. The love as the motive behind the messengers to impart the gospel.
3. They choose to make this decision on their own free-will, having all the truth of God's word, the evidence of creation and the depravity of man all around them.
- C. Their spiritual need is fortified. vs. 10c  
 \* "That they might be saved".
1. They neither see themselves in need of salvation from sin; a sinner.

2. They do not acknowledge the human race as fallen or the product of sin. Rom. 1:18-21, Eph. 4:17-19
3. They throw away the free gift of God, salvation by grace, through faith. Eph. 2:8-9
4. They insist on the covenant with hell and all the evil around them.

### Illustration

Man is like a blind man who attempts to see the sun and describe it to another, he is deceiving himself.

### Application

1. God reveals the state of man clearly throughout the Scriptures in order to turn man from his sin. Is. 64:6
2. God gives every person a choice to accept or reject with the promise that none of their unrighteousness will be mentioned or their righteousness if they turn from it, through the watchman. Ezk. 18, 33
3. God takes no delight in the death of the wicked. Ezk. 33:11
4. The tragedy is that the lake of fire was made for no one but Satan and his angels but countless of people will end up there for all eternity. Matt. 25:41

*The people of his following are spiritually blind and dead!*

**III. The outcome of his followers. vs. 11-12**

**A. God will honor their choice. vs. 11**

1. God will send them strong delusion.
  - a. The reason is not based on God's lack of love.
    - 1) He has communicated His love letter, the gospel.
    - 2) They have rejected it continuous.
  - b. The word delusion "plane" means a wandering, whereby those who are led astray roam here and there.
    - 1) The word is used always in the New Testament of mental strategy, wrong opinion, error in morals or religion.
    - 2) The word is used for the spirit of error. 1Jn. 4:6.
    - 3) It is an active forwarding of evil in and through the man of lawlessness.
2. God will allow them to believe the lie.
  - a. The word lie "psudos", means a conscious and intentional falsehood.
  - b. The outcome is that they should believe the lie, literally, the lie, Satan.

- d. The product of God's allowance is a long process of God's ongoing and long patience
  - e. God is in control and ordering things as to all that Satan can do without violating man's free will.
3. The word "God" is emphatic, He is the one sending as a consequences of their choice and divine retribution.
    - a. This is the outcome of sinning against His love and love letter of the gospel.
    - b. This is the outcome of His love without concern for one's sins.
      - 1) God sent a distressing spirit upon Saul. 1Sam. 18:10
      - 2) God sent a lying spirit in the mouth of the false prophets in the days of Micaiah. 1Kings 22:23  
\* Some believe perhaps those who have rejected the gospel during the age of grace will not be able to believe?
- B. God will judge them. vs. 12**
1. God's sentence is perfect.
    - \* "That they may be condemned".
  - a. The word condemned "krino" means to distinguish, choose or give an opinion as a verdict.
  - b. The giving up was due to their own ongoing rebellion against God's love.

2. God's judgment is the verdict based on their guilt.
  - \* "Who did not believe the truth."
    - a. The word is the same word for the love of the truth . vs. 11
    - b. Their need of repentance for salvation as sinners
    - c. The revelation that God created them and loves them by dying for them. 1:7-10, Jn. 3:36
2. God's judgment is the verdict based on their practice,
  - \* "But had pleasure in unrighteousness." Jn. 3:19, Rom. 1:22-23
    - a. The progression is certain & downward, God gave them up to uncleanness, vile passions & debased minds!
    - b. She who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives. 1Tim. 5:6
    - c. Surely the wrath of man shall praise you. Ps. 76:10a

### **Illustration**

Some years ago a druggist in the East advertised as follow: " THE DRUG STORE YOU CAN PATRONIZE WITH CONFIDENCE- ACCURACY AND EXPERIENCE, OUR MOTTO." After many years of making up prescriptions for the neighborhood, it was discovered that he was doing so without a license.

He was not an expert pharmacist. Who knows how many people suffered in health from his inexpert prescribing or filling of prescription? How many deaths had he caused? **#1105**

### **Application**

**1.** Beginning with Israel God has always given to man a choice and He seeks to persuade us, lovingly. Deut. 30:19-20

\* "I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He *is* your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."

**2.** God will answer according to man's idols after their hardness of heart. Ezk. 14:1-5

\* Now some of the elders of Israel came to me and sat before me. And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts, and put before them that which causes them to stumble into iniquity. Should I let Myself be inquired of at all by them? Therefore speak to them, and say to them, `Thus says the Lord GOD: Everyone of the house of Israel who sets up his idols in his heart, and puts before him what causes him to stumble into

iniquity, and then comes to the prophet, I the LORD will answer him who comes, according to the multitude of his idols, that I may seize the house of Israel by their heart, because they are all estranged from Me by their idols.”

**3.** Jesus is the judge of every woman and man that has ever lived. Jn. 5:22-23

\* "For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, "that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

***This is the outcome of his followers, eternal separation!***

### **Conclusion**

Paul has revealed the deception of the man of lawlessness at his coming and those to be deceived, described by:

- I.** The nature of his coming is Satanic!
- II.** The people of his following are spiritually blind and dead!
- III.** The outcome of his followers is eternal separation!