

God Shall Send Them Strong Delusion

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian church

2 Thessalonians 2:10-12. "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

When we look at the world today it is easy to see that many people are confused about a lot of things, especially about right and wrong. So many support things that the Lord condemns as sinful, and yet claim that they are doing the Lord's will. How can this be? We cannot say, with authority, that something is right or wrong by our own thinking, or wants. Only God can declare what is good, or bad. When he says that something is a sin, then it is whether we like it or not.

Some have a lukewarm relationship with the Lord even though the bible tells us that such a relationship is not acceptable with God. Mankind is instructed to not only believe in God, but to love him with all the heart, soul, mind, and strength. As I have said in church, "If folks loved the Lord and had as much interest in him as they do sports, en-

tainment, money, and politics then there would be more done for the Lord."

Many see no problem missing church for anything that they want to do. This says that what they want to do is as important as worshipping God. People with this attitude see no problem with countermending God's word. They want to do something and they will do it no matter what. Perhaps such a person has rejected what God has said until the Lord has let them go their own way by sending them the delusion that they are okay.

I talked with a minister recently that spoke of those that he knew of who went to church but saw no problem with the fact that they lived together in sin. Another minister on the radio some years ago said a couple came to him and wanted to work with young people. As he talked with them he discovered that they lived together, but had never married. They were surprised that he told them that they had to get right with God before they could serve in the Lord's work. They thought that they were "living right" already. Were they blind, or ignorant of the word of God?

I, and other ministers, have been mocked by some saying that we are always the "Preacher" saying something is wrong and that people should do this or that. To such people I would say, "What do you think God called us to do? We are

not here to make you feel good and to tell you that whatever you do is alright. God called us to preach his word." If you want to be happy then do what God has said. "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them," **John 13:17.**

So many people don't see much need in studying the bible. Some say that they don't have time to read it, or they don't understand it and can't remember it when they do read it. How much will they know and remember if they make no attempt to learn what the Lord has said? Can folks be so blind as to think that they don't have to obey the Lord and that they are not required to live for him? God is merciful and will forgive as long as we seek him and repent of our sins, but if a person continually goes his own way and doesn't try to walk with God, he can come under delusion and no longer see where he is going. Someone once said, "There is none so blind as he who will not see."

God wants us to see and to know the truth and to walk with him. We can do this if we trust in him and not in our own ways. In **2 Thessalonians 2:10-12** we see that the Lord sent strong delusion to those who willingly refused to accept his truth and loved pleasure more than they loved the Lord. It is sad that such should happen to people but they chose this for themselves. It does make a difference what we believe.

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